

# Positive reinforcement

To win over Afghans, U.S. officials are growing more generous with their praise. Meanwhile, anticipating Obama's troop increase, the military is digging in around Kandahar.

Pages 4-6



PHOTOS BY DREW BROWN/Stars and Stripes

Above: Niaz Mohammad Sarahadi, the subgovernor of Zhari district in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, addresses a crowd of men near the village of Ashoque, urging them to cooperate with NATO and Afghan forces against the Taliban. Below: Soldiers with Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment head out on a pre-dawn patrol in the district.



'Afghanistan is much more positive than we often give it credit for'

BY PAUL RICHTER  
*Los Angeles Times*

WASHINGTON — As they prepare to roll out a new Afghan policy to a skeptical U.S. audience, Obama administration officials are starting to replace their grim public assessments of the battered country with praise for the skills and idealism of its officials and its progress in important areas.

The message is aimed in part, officials say, at trying to build domestic support for a troop increase that President Barack Obama is expected to announce in an address Tuesday night. The decision comes at a time when most Americans have turned against the mission, and some Democratic

leaders in Congress have concluded that it is hopeless.

Officials also would like to strengthen support for the mission in Europe, where it is lobbying NATO allies for more combat troops — but faces strong resistance. And experts say the new message also reflects the recognition that, no matter how much they have criticized Afghan President Hamid Karzai for the weakness and inefficiency of his government, Western officials need him.

The United States is developing a set of benchmarks to assist Karzai, instituting a "monitoring and verification" system to judge whether ministries and agencies merit direct U.S. aid.

SEE POSITIVE ON PAGE 4

## PTSD keeps convicted Iraq veteran off death row

BY KIM MURPHY  
*Los Angeles Times*

JOHN DAY, Ore. — When Jessie Bratcher's fiancee told him the baby might not be his, that she had been raped two months earlier, he went quiet.

The former Oregon National Guardsman hung his head for the longest time. Then he went into the next room, put the barrel of an AK-47 in his mouth and took it out again.

He told Celena Davis not to expect to get any sleep that night. He walked up to her with a pair

of scissors and slowly cut off her hair.

Two mornings later, they drove to the hardware store. While Davis waited in the truck, Bratcher went in and bought a gun. He came out, loaded it and asked: Do we go to the police? Or go find the guy?

"Police," Davis said.

Except that it was a Saturday, and the main door to the station was locked. Bratcher and Davis didn't know there was an emergency door on the side of the building.

So they headed for Jose Ceja Medina's trailer.

At first Medina, standing on his porch in running shorts, denied knowing Davis. Then he said they'd had sex, but that he hadn't raped her, and he offered to take care of the baby.

He ended up with six hollow-point bullets in him.

At Bratcher's murder trial, the district attorney argued that the 27-year-old one-time grocery clerk had hunted down and killed Medina.

But Bratcher's lawyer said that when his client held the gun that morning, he was more than a furiously jealous boyfriend. He

was a trained killer who'd been taught by the Army to mow down threats without much thinking, a man whose diminutive stature, quiet politeness and once-cheerful nature disguised the fact that he was, in the words of a sociologist who testified in the case, "a walking time bomb."

In what veterans' rights leaders say is the first major criminal exoneration linked to post-traumatic stress disorder, a jury in Canyon City, Ore., in October found Bratcher was legally insane when he shot Medina.

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Chinese defense minister visits Sasebo Naval Base, tours Japanese Aegis-equipped destroyer

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## Weis fired

Notre Dame ousts coach after 6-6 season

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"Steve McQueen was taken, so it seemed like 'funny Jew' was next up on the list."**

—Actor Seth Rogen, who says there were already too many study leading men in Hollywood, so he cornered the goofy genre instead when attempting to break into the business.

See story on Page 12

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## Veteran: Others noticed change in soldier after deployment

### VETERAN, FROM PAGE 1

"I only know of one cure for the experiences from these wars," said sociologist William Brown, a former Army drill sergeant. "And that's a lobotomy."

Many trauma experts say Iraq and Afghanistan are producing a troubling hybrid of stress and traumatic brain injury because of the roadside bombs that have become part of warfare. And unlike their Vietnam predecessors, who would normally serve a single tour, today's soldiers are sometimes serving three or four combat deployments.

"We're getting ready to face an epidemic," said Floyd Meshad, president of the National Veterans Federation and author of a book on helping PTSD victims with what he said will be, for many of them, an inevitable trip through the criminal justice system.

While a PTSD diagnosis has helped reduce prison terms for some defendants — and resulted in the acquittal in 2009 of a former Army captain in California charged with robbery — Meshad said he knows of no case other than Bratcher's in which a veteran avoided a murder conviction.

"This is a major precedent," he said.

Under Oregon law, Bratcher could have been convicted on a reduced charge of first-degree manslaughter if jurors had found he was a sane person acting in the passion of the moment. Instead they found him "guilty except insane" — a ruling that will allow him to receive psychological treatment instead of prison.

"You're going to hear a story that has all the elements of a Shakespearean tragedy," Grant County Public Defender Markku Sario had told the jury during opening statements in the tiny rural courthouse in Canyon City. "War, sex, madness, violence ... And it ends as most Shakespearean tragedies do: Everybody loses."

Bratcher was born and raised in Prairie City, just east of John Day, on land that rolls off the timbered mountains of eastern Oregon. His father, a Mexican farm worker, left almost immediately. His mother wasn't up to raising him, so he lived with his grandfather, David Baughman, a logger and auto body mechanic.

Baughman tried to raise Bratcher the way he'd been brought up. He took his grandson hunting, but Bratcher never wanted to do the killing.

"It was violence to him," Baughman said. "He just didn't want to see anything die."

After Sept. 11, 2001, Bratcher joined the Oregon National Guard.

Bratcher boarded a plane for Kuwait early in 2005 and spent the next 11 months at Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk, Iraq.

"Jessie was always the type of individual who talked to all the Iraqis, wanted to take pictures. Real happy," said Martin Castellanoz,

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**"When my boy come back, he really come back as a different boy."**

**David Baughman**

Jessie Bratcher's grandfather

**"You're going to hear a story that has all the elements of a Shakespearean tragedy. War, sex, madness, violence ... And it ends as most Shakespearean tragedies do: Everybody loses."**

**Markku Sario**

Grant County public defender

**"I only know of one cure for the experiences from these wars, and that's a lobotomy."**

**William Brown**

former Army drill sergeant

ous, when customers would reach back and take newer jugs of milk after he had carefully stacked the older ones in front.

He soon was fired.

He started quarreling with his grandfather. For days at a time, Bratcher lived in the woods, setting up military-style perimeters and patrolling them with his modified assault rifles.

"When my boy come back, he really come back as a different boy," Baughman said. "I couldn't talk to him hardly at all anymore. At night sometimes he'd jump out of bed real fast, and he'd holler. He just had things on his mind, deep things, that I guess he probably couldn't explain to anybody, really."

Bratcher went to the Veterans Administration hospital several times. Doctors rejected his first claim of PTSD, though they later declared him 70 percent and then 100 percent disabled. They sent him home with medication to calm him down and help him sleep.

Nobody had deprogrammed Bratcher when he got home, Sario told the jury. He was the same hair-trigger killing machine he had been trained to be around Kirkuk.

Bratcher had told his lawyer that in Medina's yard that day, it was like he was in Kirkuk, watching murderous events unfold around him. He saw somebody shooting Medina, emptying all 10 rounds from the clip. Medina's 14-year-old nephew was shouting from the front porch, and Bratcher saw him as an Iraqi woman screaming.

In another small trailer not far from where Medina died, his parents and two brothers have been trying to figure out why Jose is dead and nobody's to blame.

"There's no proof he was having a flashback, which he complained about. But there's proof he bought the gun, and there's proof that he used it," said Francisco Medina, 19. "We understand he has PTSD. But does that give him the right to just go murder somebody?"

Prosecutor Ryan Joslin presented evidence that Bratcher hadn't seen that many dead bodies in Iraq. And while a state psychologist concluded Bratcher was suffering from stress disorder, another one said his responses on evaluation tests were so extreme that Bratcher could be faking it.

"When he took out his gun and shot at the victim 10 times, mostly in the back and the side of the head, as the victim was fleeing — did he really not know what he was doing?" Joslin said. "Or was he unable to keep himself from doing it?"

The prosecutor said Bratcher's Army experience should never have been the centerpiece of the trial.

Bratcher is being held at the small jail in Grant County until at least Dec. 7, when the judge will decide how to proceed. A month after the shooting, he and Davis got married in the jail. They have a daughter named Nevaeh — heaven spelled backward.

43, a fellow Oregonian who was Bratcher's platoon sergeant. "But after the first rocket attacks, I could see in Jessie's demeanor already that he was beginning to get scared. Of course, I myself was scared."

A soldier Bratcher befriended was a fellow Guardsman from Oregon, John Ogburn III. On patrol one day, Ogburn's Humvee rolled over in an accident. Bratcher watched as his friend was crushed to death.

"I started seeing big changes in his attitude after that," Castellanoz said. "It was more like, 'I don't care.' He had the mentality of: 'We die, we die.' ... We went out on patrols then, and he was hyperalert. I'd hear him say things that I'd never thought I'd hear Bratcher say: 'I'll shoot 'em. I'll kill 'em.'"

When Bratcher came back to Prairie City in late 2005, he got a job stocking shelves at the local supermarket, where he met Davis. But he would become resentful, even furi-

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# China gets rare ship tour

## Japan shows off Aegis-equipped destroyer at Sasebo

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA  
*Stars and Stripes*

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — A visit here Monday by a Chinese defense ministry delegation put the communist country's top military officials unusually close to the U.S. Navy and its advanced Aegis weapons system technology.

The Japanese navy invited Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie and an entourage of ministry officials onto the base for a tour of the destroyer Chokai, which is equipped with the Aegis system and docked in Sasebo with U.S. warships.

The United States has shared the technology with its ally Japan and both countries depend on the ship-based Aegis systems for an edge over Asian threats, including China's burgeoning missile programs.

China's tour of the Aegis destroyer was limited to the deck and the bridge to maintain security, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force said Monday.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy was conspicuously absent from the high-level visit to one of its key bases in the Pacific region, which it shares with the Japanese navy.

Beyond arranging for the defense minister's arrival, the U.S. did not work with the Japanese to coordinate the visit to Sasebo, said David Marks, a U.S. embassy spokesman in Tokyo.

**Officers from China's defense ministry board the Japanese destroyer Chokai at Sasebo Naval Base on Monday. The warship is equipped with the U.S.-developed Aegis weapons system, which gives the U.S. an edge over China's rapidly developing missile program.**

TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

"The involvement of the U.S. side was minimal," he said. "Apparently, [Liang] had to go through the front gate of the base to get to the ships."

The embassy would not comment on whether the visit raised any security concerns. U.S. Forces Japan refused to comment and directed all questions to the embassy.

The group of Chinese officials traveled through the U.S. Navy base by motorcade and spent about 90 minutes aboard the destroyer, Japanese defense ministry spokesman Masashi Maegata said.

Navy security was increased around the base during the visit and U.S. sailors were stationed at intersections along the defense minister's motorcade route.

For Japan, the visit by Liang was a sign that long-held tensions between the two Asian countries might be thawing despite Tokyo's concern about Chinese military growth in recent years.

Liang and his Japanese counterpart, Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa, agreed to joint military training between China and Japan during Liang's six-day visit, according to Reuters.

But Kitazawa and Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama also took the opportunity to press China for more transparency in its military spending during meetings in Tokyo, the wire service reported.

E-mail Travis J. Tritten at: [tritten@pstripes.osd.mil](mailto:tritten@pstripes.osd.mil)  
E-mail Chiyomi Sumida at: [sumidac@pstripes.osd.mil](mailto:sumidac@pstripes.osd.mil)



## Veteran unemployment outstrips U.S. rate

McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Victor Ruiz has been looking for work since January.

An Air Force pension helps, but it's not enough to keep his family afloat. His house is in foreclosure, and he and his two teenage children are leaving Fircrest, Wash., to live with his parents in Chicago.

Ruiz, 39, is a retired Air Force major who has an MBA, oversaw an \$80 million computer network that helped track incoming missiles and nuclear detonations, and at various times supervised more than 100 people.

"I am the most educated of my three siblings, but I am the one moving back home," Ruiz said.

Many veterans, especially younger and injured ones, are struggling to find civilian jobs in a troubled economy.

The unemployment rate for veterans who left the military during

the past three years is 18 percent, nearly twice the national average. The average for all veterans is about 11.6 percent. Even those numbers, however, may not reflect the situation as the economy worsened.

Six months ago, members of the 81st Combat Team of the Washington National Guard were patrolling in such places as Mosul, Balad and Ramadi in Iraq. Now, after returning home in August, roughly 40 percent of the 2,400 Guardsmen from Washington state are still looking for work.

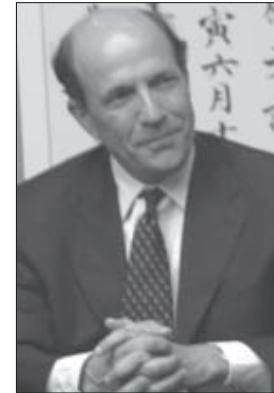
Meantime, the Pentagon during the third quarter reimbursed the Labor Department nearly \$186 million for veterans' unemployment benefits, an increase of more than 70 percent from a year ago.

"It's just heartbreaking," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. "They volunteer, serve our country honorably and come back and can't find a job."

Murray, a senior member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, is working on legislation that would provide additional employment training and support for unemployed veterans and establish a program to help veterans start their own businesses. Murray's bill also would provide grants to states that establish Veterans Conservation Corps to employ veterans to restore natural habitat, maintain local forests and parks and improve storm-water facilities. Murray hopes to introduce her bill in the coming weeks.

Every year, 220,000 service-members exit the military. About 10 percent of them are retirees and about 10 percent of them are officers. An additional 80,000 to 90,000 National Guard members or reservists leave the military.

Of every 1,000 troops deployed, 23 percent are combat troops, and the rest are support troops, many of whom have computer and information technology skills.

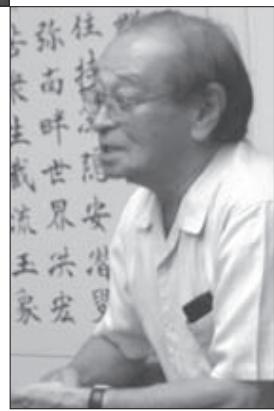


*"As you know, the United States believes that the Futenma replacement is the sole, the best and only viable option."*

**U.S. Ambassador John Roos**  
In comments made while on a three-day visit to Okinawa

*"Okinawa voices are growing to demand the operation be moved outside Okinawa."*

**Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima**  
Requesting Japan to change realignment plans with the U.S.



## Envoy: U.S. working hard to resolve Futenma issues

By DAVID ALLEN  
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA  
*Stars and Stripes*

8,000 Marines to be moved off Okinawa to Guam.

"As you know, the United States believes that the Futenma replacement is the sole, the best and only viable option," Roos told the governor at a meeting in Naha open to the press. "We are working through the issues."

In the past, Nakaima said he supported the move to Camp Schwab because he thought it was a done deal. He has recently said he prefers the Marines to move its air operations off his island.

Hatoyama's ministers have been divided on the issue — some have called for scrapping the relocation agreement and moving Marine air operations outside Okinawa, while others suggested adjustments be made in the current plan or that the Marines move air operations to Kadena Air Base on Okinawa. U.S. officials have previously dismissed the Kadena option as unworkable.

Hatoyama told the governor that a decision on Futenma will be made through ongoing talks between the U.S. and Japan in a working group. He did not indicate a deadline, according to Okinawa officials.

During the Naha meeting, Nakaima asked Roos, who is a member of the working group, when they might complete their review.

Pausing a moment, Roos replied, "As soon as possible," drawing laughter from the press and others in the room.

"We are working diligently to resolve the issue."

E-mail David Allen and Chiyomi Sumida at: [okibureau@pstripes.osd.mil](mailto:okibureau@pstripes.osd.mil)

# Positive: U.S., allies change Afghan tack

## POSITIVE, FROM PAGE 1

While keeping pressure on Karzai, who won re-election to a second five-year term this year in a tainted election, officials also are emphasizing Afghanistan's economic potential, its progress in education and even its anti-corruption efforts.

"The picture in Afghanistan is much more positive than we often give it credit for," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said during a visit to Kabul last month.

Such assertions carry a political risk. If the public concludes that they are unrealistic, it could cost Obama and his team credibility on Afghanistan. Former President George W. Bush was criticized for his claims of steady progress in Iraq during the most violent days of its insurgency.

Since the start of Obama's term, U.S. officials have complained about Karzai and his government, hoping to pressure him to move more aggressively against corruption. The critique was spelled out most sharply in the August report by U.S. and allied military commander Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal that foreshadowed his request for another 40,000 troops.

"The weakness of state institutions, malign actions of power brokers, widespread corruption and abuse of power by various officials ... have given Afghans little reason to support their government," McChrystal wrote.

Now, U.S. officials are focusing on different aspects of the same picture.

James C. Dobbins, a former U.S. envoy to Afghanistan under Bush, said Karzai is a "weak but essential" figure for the Americans.

"Some of the criticism was exaggerated, and it may be that they'll have to overcompensate by exaggerating his virtues," said Dobbins, now with Rand Corp.

U.S. allies also have muted their criticism, and Karzai has reciprocated.

Clinton, during her trip to Kabul, said most of the ministers in Karzai's government are "very impressive." She added, "The quality of the people in the government is really quite positive."

She praised the president as a "patriot" who had laid out "visionary" ideas for making the government more honest and effective. In his inauguration address earlier this month, Karzai pledged to fire any official connected to drug trafficking and to "end the culture of impunity and violation of the law."

But in Congress, many lawmakers are coming to the conclusion that Afghanistan is simply broken.

After Karzai's inauguration earlier this month, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., complained on National Public Radio that he "has proven to be an unworthy partner. ... How can we ask the American people to pay a big price in lives and limbs and also in dollars if we don't have a connection to a reliable partner?"



NAVY VISUAL NEWS SERVICE/AP

**Marines of the Multi-National Force-West conduct recovery efforts July 28 at the crash site of Navy Capt. Michael "Scott" Speicher in Anbar province, Iraq. Then-Lt. Cmdr. Speicher's F/A-18 was shot down Jan. 17, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm.**

# Saddam truthful on fate of naval aviator

By PAMELA HESS

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Saddam Hussein was telling the truth, this time. The United States just didn't believe him.

So it took the most powerful military in the world 18 years to find the remains of a U.S. Navy pilot shot down in the 1991 Gulf War.

Michael "Scott" Speicher's bones lay 18 inches deep in Iraqi sand, more or less right where a group of Iraqis had led an American search team in 1995.

The search for Speicher was frustrated by two wars, mysteriously switched remains, Iraqi duplicity and a final tip from a young nomad in Anbar province.

U.S. officials often were blinded by the same myopia that tainted prewar intelligence — the American conviction that Hussein's government lied about everything. As it turned out, the Iraqis lied, but sometimes they told the truth.

For more than a decade, speculation swirled that the 33-year-old Speicher, a lieutenant commander when he went missing, had been captured alive. That was disproved by the team that found and confirmed his remains.

"He wasn't captured or tortured," said Thomas Brown, chief of the Intelligence Community POW/MIA analytic cell at the Defense Intelligence Agency. Brown, who worked on Speicher's case for 15 years, described how the threads leading to the pilot got so tangled.

Speicher's aircraft was shot down by an Iraqi MiG fighter 100 miles west of Baghdad on Jan. 17, 1991, the first day of the war to drive Saddam's invading forces from Kuwait. Then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney announced the pilot's death as the first casualty of the war, but no search and rescue effort was launched.

When the war ended that March, the U.S. demanded the return of Speicher's remains. But because of a data glitch, the U.S. erroneously pinpointed his crash site south of Baghdad.

The Iraqis were puzzled. They knew an F/A-18 had been shot down west of the capital. But they followed the botched U.S. coordinates and searched for Speicher's plane in the south, finding nothing.



Speicher

The search was soon complicated by the Iraqi discovery of a different crash site — of a downed Air Force A-10 attack aircraft. The Iraqis brought the unidentified A-10 pilot's remains to a Basra hospital for safekeeping.

Just before those remains were to be handed over to the U.S., Shiites rebelling against Saddam seized the hospital, forcing Iraqi officials to make a hasty gamble.

So the Iraqis instead handed over to American authorities a 4-pound piece of another cadaver. U.S. officials already had accounted for the dead A-10 pilot, so the unidentified remains stumped them. Were they Speicher's?

By May 1991, DNA tests ruled that out.

In January 2001, President Bill Clinton changed Speicher's status from killed in action to missing, echoing U.S. belief he could be alive. An intelligence assessment said Speicher probably had survived the crash and Iraq was either holding him prisoner or hiding his remains.

In the summer of 2002, as the Bush administration prepared to invade Iraq, new intelligence intercepts suggested Speicher was being moved between dozens of secret sites inside Iraq.

Before the 2003 invasion, "we were positive we were getting him back," said Buddy Harris, a Speicher friend who later married the pilot's widow.

Brown believes the Iraqi government was trying to convince President George W. Bush that Speicher was still alive to protect Saddam from being targeted when the invasion came.

Searchers continued to press every lead. For six years, soldiers and Marines deployed in Anbar were told to ask people there if they had heard anything about the missing American pilot.

The instructions finally paid off last July. A sheik told Marines of a Bedouin who remembered a burial 20 years earlier.

The earth yielded another piece of a pilot's flight suit and a jaw bone. The teeth matched the missing pilot's dental records. Michael Scott Speicher, who reached the rank of captain because he kept receiving promotions while his status was unknown, had been there all along, Brown said.

Harris says the ending is too neat, meant to whitewash the Pentagon's failure to launch a search and rescue mission in 1991.

"Too many people want to tie it into a nice little bow here," Harris says. "Their motive wasn't Scott Speicher, it was to get this thing done."

# Afghan officer kills six others at checkpoint

By RAHIM FAIEZ

*The Associated Press*

KABUL — A rogue Afghan police officer opened fire at a checkpoint in southwest Afghanistan, killing six police officers and injuring two before being killed, an official said Monday.

The incident — the second time in two months that a police officer has turned on colleagues — is a reminder of the steep challenge NATO troops face as they work to build a national police force that will be able to provide security and allow international forces to eventually leave.

The shooting in southern Nimroz province occurred Sunday morning in Khash Rod district, said provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Jabar Pardeli.

"One of our policemen opened fire on his colleagues at the checkpoint," Pardeli said, adding that an investigation was under way to find what prompted the shooting.

He said the suspect escaped to Dil Aram — another district in the province — where he was identified by a patrol of Afghan police and army soldiers. The patrol tried to stop him, but he started shooting again and was killed in a gun battle.

In October, a police officer opened fire on the British troops training him, killing five. Last year, police officers turned against American soldiers in two separate incidents, killing and wounding several.

In the same area as the latest shooting, a Turkish engineer for a private construction company has been missing since Sunday, when he drove out toward Dil Aram, Gov. Ghulam Dastagir Azad said.

In the north, meanwhile, two gunmen on a motorbike shot and killed the head of logistics for the provincial intelligence service late Sunday, said Jowzjan provincial police chief Khalilullah Aminzada.

# Body of second paratrooper found in river

Stars and Stripes

The second U.S. paratrooper who was swept away by a fast-moving current while on an airdrop re-supply mission Nov. 4 in western Afghanistan was found Sunday, military officials said.

Sgt. Brandon Islip, 24, was recovered from the Bala Murgahab River in Badghis province after a local resident provided information on his whereabouts.

British divers had recovered Spc. Benjamin Sherman, 21, on Nov. 10, also in Badghis province. Sherman was posthumously promoted to sergeant.

Islip and Sherman, with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, were infantrymen assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. They were attached to 2nd Battalion, 321st Airborne Field Artillery Regiment to advise and train Afghan security forces.

Afghan and international forces and 4th Brigade Combat Team paratroopers found the missing paratroopers in a joint operation.

A memorial service for the two paratroopers will be held in Afghanistan in the coming days.

# Blair adviser: U.S. didn't expect to stabilize Iraq

BY MEERA SELVA  
The Associated Press

LONDON — American troops did not expect to play a role in stabilizing Iraq after overthrowing Saddam Hussein, a key adviser to former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Monday.

David Manning, who served as a foreign policy aide to Blair before being appointed ambassador to Washington in 2003, said a British inquiry into the war that the U.S. military did not believe peacekeeping was their responsibility.

"The American military thought that they were fighting a war and when the war was over they were expecting to go home," he said.

Manning said British troops in Basra talked to local people, but that American troops were not willing to do the same.

"I was very struck ... by the reluctance of U.S. soldiers to get out of their tanks, to take off their helmets and to try to build up

links with local communities," he said.

He also said he believed Paul Bremer, the U.S. diplomat charged with overseeing the reconstruction of Iraq, made the situation worse by trying to purge the army and police of members of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party.

The inquiry, which is in its second week, is not set up to hold anyone liable for the conflict, but it does have the potential to embarrass officials in the U.S. and Britain who argued — incorrectly — that Saddam was developing weapons of mass destruction and had links with al-Qaida.

Jeremy Greenstock, the former British ambassador to the United Nations, told the inquiry on Friday that the U.S. was "hell bent" on war with Iraq from the beginning and undermined efforts by Britain to win international authorization for the invasion.

Manning's also testified that the U.S. was looking for connections between Iraq and Sept. 11 within hours of the attacks.



Cpl. Michael Ingram, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, checks a man for weapons and bombs in the village of Pashmul, in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province.

DREW BROWN  
Stars and Stripes

## Kandahar: Allies expand control outside city

### KANDAHAR, FROM PAGE 5

Even though the U.S. presence in Zhari is now much larger — about 750 Americans compared to 150 Canadians previously — U.S. forces have not had an easier time than their predecessors.

Since they took over the district, six soldiers from 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry have been killed and about 40 others wounded, mostly from Taliban bombs. The latest losses occurred last week, when one soldier died and six others were wounded during a mortar attack on the battalion's main base.

Still, U.S. officers say there are signs that security is improving. Firefights with small groups of Taliban fighters occur almost daily, but bomb attacks along Highway 1 have been on the decline, dropping from 27 in October to just four in the past month, an indication that boosting the number of U.S. and Afghan forces along the highway has paid off.

Despite the frequent combat in the countryside, encounters with villagers are often positive, U.S. officers say.

"There hasn't been a place where we've gone yet where people have told us that they don't want us

to secure them," Brown said. "They're tired of the Taliban."

But U.S. officers also acknowledge that it's possible local villagers are telling U.S. forces what they believe the Americans want to hear. The area has been a Taliban stronghold since the start of the movement. Mullah Mohammad Omar, the Taliban leader now believed to be hiding in Karachi, Pakistan, got his start as a religious teacher and political leader in the nearby village of Sangasar. Canadian forces have long referred to Zhari and Panjwai districts as the "heart of darkness."

However, senior U.S. officers say they are confident that with the sustained presence of U.S. troops and Afghan security forces, those villagers will eventually come to their side.

"We don't like to say hearts and minds; we like to say trust and confidence," said Lt. Col. Reik Andersen, commander of 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment. "And if we have the trust and confidence of the people, then eventually they will turn the Taliban over."

E-mail Drew Brown at: brownnd@estripes.osd.mil

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## IN THE STATES

**Alleged Elizabeth Smart kidnapper back in court**

SALT LAKE CITY — For the third time since his arrest in 2003, a court will hold a competency hearing for the man charged in the 2002 abduction of Elizabeth Smart.

The 10-day hearing for Brian David Mitchell begins Monday in Utah's U.S. District Court.

U.S. District Judge Dale Kimball will decide whether the 56-year-old former street preacher is competent to stand trial.

Diagnosed with a rare delusional disorder, Mitchell — who sings hymns incessantly during court appearances and once yelled at a judge to 'repent' — has been primarily held at Utah State Hospital and has refused treatment.

**House member wants party crasher probe**

WASHINGTON — The top Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee is calling in the Secret Service director and the couple who crashed a state dinner to testify on the incident Thursday.

Mississippi's Bennie Thompson said he wants answers about the Secret Service's security deficiencies that allowed Michael and Tareq Salahi into the Nov. 24 White House dinner even though they were not on the guest list.

Some lawmakers have called for criminal charges to be brought against the couple, but the Secret Service has yet to do so. The Secret Service could not immediately be reached for comment.

**Paper: FBI paid blogger accused of threats**

TRENTON, N.J. — A newspaper said a New Jersey blogger accused of threatening federal judges apparently was paid by the FBI to help in its battle against domestic terrorism.

The Record of Bergen County reviewed numerous government documents, e-mails, court records and almost 20 hours of jailhouse interviews with Hal Turner. He faces charges that he made death threats against three Chicago federal appeals judges.

The newspaper reported Sunday that Turner received thousands of dollars from the FBI to report on neo-Nazis and white supremacist groups. Turner claims the FBI coached him to make racist, anti-Semitic and other threatening statements on his radio show.

**4 dead, 1 injured in traffic accident**

MARYSVILLE, Wash. — State highway officials said four people have died in Washington state after their car was struck by another vehicle that ran a stop sign.

Trooper Keith Leary said all four victims were in a car traveling south on State Route 9 near Marysville.

Leary said the driver of the other vehicle ran a stop sign and fled the scene, but was persuaded by a nearby resident to return. Officials said that driver, who received minor injuries, was arrested for investigation of driving while intoxicated.

From The Associated Press

**Wash. shooting suspect evades cops**

BY MANUEL VALDES  
*The Associated Press*

SEATTLE — A heavily armed SWAT team stormed a Seattle home Monday where they thought they had cornered the suspect in the slaying of four police officers

at a coffee shop, only to find out that he was not in the house and still on the loose.

The discovery added new urgency to the manhunt for Maurice Clemons as police neighborhood and hundreds of officers were deployed around Seattle, looking for any sign of the suspect. Authorities put up a \$125,000 reward for information leading to his arrest.

Police had been positioned overnight at a

canvassed the area with search dogs and hundreds of officers were deployed around Seattle, looking for any sign of the suspect. Authorities put up a \$125,000 reward for information leading to his arrest.

Seattle home where they thought Clemons was holed up and spent hours trying to communicate with him, using loudspeakers.

ers, explosions and even a robot sent into the house. But when the SWAT team went inside, he was nowhere to be found.

Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said the location of Clemons was not known, and it's possible he still could be in the

neighborhood. Troyer also said people who know Clemons told investigators he had been shot in the torso in his bloody struggle with the officers.

"If he didn't get a ride out of there, he could still be in the area," Troyer said.

Seattle police spokesman Jeff Kappel said there was evidence Clemons at one point was on the property, but officers could not determine whether he was in the house itself. Kappel

would not describe what the evidence was, but said it was a "good tip" that led them to the home.

Meanwhile, University of Washington officials alerted stu-

dents by e-mail and text messages to an unconfirmed report that Clemons might have gotten off a bus or near the campus about 3 miles north of the residence, university police Cmdr. Jerome Solomon said. Police were checking the area, he said.

Troyer said warrants for first-degree murder have been issued against Clemons in the killings of the officers from the Tacoma suburb of Lakewood who were gunned down in a coffee shop on Sunday morning.

Clemons has a long criminal history, including a long prison sentence commuted by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee nearly a decade ago, and a recent arrest for allegedly assaulting a police officer in Washington.

Authorities allege he killed Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39, and officers Ronald Owens, 37, Tina Griswold, 40, and Greg Richards, 42, as they worked on their laptop computers at the beginning of their shifts.

Clemons is believed to have been in the area of the coffee shop around the time of the shooting.

but Troyer declined to say what might link him to the shooting.

Investigators said they know of no reason four gunning down the officers, but court documents indicate Clemons is delusional and mentally unstable.

Clemons has an extensive violent criminal history from Arkansas. He was also recently charged in Washington state with assaulting a police officer, and second-degree rape of a child. Using a bail bondsman, he posted \$150,000 — only \$15,000 of his own money — and was released from jail last week.

Documents related to the pending charges in Washington state indicate a volatile personality. In one instance, he is accused of punching a sheriff's deputy in the face, The Seattle Times reported. In another, he is accused of gathering his wife and young relatives and forcing them to undress, according to a Pierce County sheriff's report.

"The whole time Clemons kept saying things like trust him, the world is going to end soon.



Richards



Griswold



Owens



Renninger

Seattle home where they thought Clemons was holed up and spent hours trying to communicate with him, using loudspeakers.

**Supreme Court suppresses pictures of prisoner abuse**

BY MICHAEL DOYLE  
*McClatchy Newspapers*

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court did all it could Monday to lock up forever some incendiary photos that show U.S. soldiers abusing foreign prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Yielding to Congress and the White House, justices took the expected but formal step of reversing a lower court's order that the pictures be released. Using its budget powers, Congress already had suppressed the photos.

In a brief, unsigned decision issued Monday without elaboration, the court cited a provision in a Homeland Security funding bill President Barack Obama signed Oct. 28. The provision permitted the Pentagon to block the public release of the pictures, as well as others deemed to "endanger" U.S. soldiers or civilians.

"Disclosure of those photographs would pose a clear and grave risk of inciting violence and riots against American troops and coalition forces," Solicitor General Elena Kagan had warned the Supreme Court.

The Justice Department's brief noted one picture shows "several

soldiers posing near standing detainees who are handcuffed to bars with sandbags covering their heads while a soldier holds a broom as if sticking its end ... into the rectum of a restrained detainee."

Another photo shows a soldier who appears to be striking an Iraqi detainee with the butt of a rifle. There are at least 21 color photos in question, depicting U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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## IN THE WORLD



CHRISTOF STACHE/AP

Police and medical assistants escort defendant John Demjanjuk during a trial break Monday in Munich.

### Hondurans vote, wait to see if results hold

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Honduras' newly elected President Porfirio Lobo already faces an international crisis even before taking office: Many countries of the hemisphere refuse to recognize his government, chosen in the shadow of a coup.

Election officials said Monday that the conservative rancher had a strong lead in Sunday's presidential contest and his rival conceded defeat.

Election organizers also said that more than 60 percent of registered voters cast ballots — an increase from the last election — indicating that most Hondurans rejected calls by toppled President Manuel Zelaya to boycott the vote.

The U.S. has said that it will recognize a free and fair vote, but it made no comment following the election.

Zelaya was already disputing the official numbers.

### Russia releases sketch in fatal railway bombing

MOSCOW — Police released a composite sketch Monday of a man thought to be involved in a

train bombing that killed 26 people, and a railway official suggested the attack had the hallmarks of terrorism by saboteurs from the volatile North Caucasus.

Authorities say Friday night's derailment of a train speeding from Moscow to St. Petersburg was caused by a bomb planted on



Suspect

the tracks. The blast gouged out a five-foot crater and sent the final three carriages of the 14-car Nevsky Express hurtling off the rails.

A second explosive device partially detonated at the crash site Saturday as railway workers were clearing debris.

"The second explosion, which occurred some time later, is the so-called double-blast method, which is carried out by North Caucasus sabotage groups," Alexander Bobreshov, a vice president of Russian Railways, said on Eko Moskva radio.

From The Associated Press



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# Trial opens for U.S. man in Nazi death camp case

By DAVID RISING  
The Associated Press

MUNICH — A German court put John Demjanjuk on trial Monday to face charges of being an accessory to the murder of 27,900 Jews at a Nazi death camp, and his lawyer immediately accused the court of bias.

The retired Ohio autoworker arrived at the opening of the trial in a wheelchair to face another chapter of some 30 years of efforts to prosecute him.

After the first 90-minute session, Demjanjuk, 89, was returned to the courtroom lying flat on his back on a gurney, covered in blankets.

Doctors who had examined Demjanjuk before the second session began said he had complained of serious pain and was given a shot.

They ordered the session be cut short, and it wrapped up 30 minutes later.

Demjanjuk's attorney had opened the proceedings by filing a motion against the court's judge and prosecutors, accusing them of treating the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk harsher than Germans who ran the Nazi's Sobibor death camp in occupied Poland.

Lawyer Ulrich Busch charged that the case should never have been brought to trial.

He cited cases in which

Germans assigned to Sobibor — where prosecutors allege Demjanjuk served as a guard — were acquitted.

"How can you say that those who gave the orders were innocent ... and the one who received the orders is guilty?" Busch told the court. "There is a moral and legal double standard being applied today."

Demjanjuk was deported in May from the United States to Germany, and has been in custody since then.

A former Soviet Red Army soldier, Demjanjuk is now accused of volunteering to serve as a guard under the SS after being taken prisoner by the Nazis in 1942.

## Iran has 5 British sailors in custody

By RAPHAEL G. SATTER  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Iran is holding five British sailors after stopping their racing yacht in the Persian Gulf, the British government said Monday. The move could heighten tensions between Iran and major world powers, including Britain, that are demanding a halt to its nuclear program. Oil prices spiked 2 percent to \$77.45 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange as the news broke.

The yacht owned by Sail Bahrain was stopped on its way from the tiny island country to the Gulf city of Dubai on Wednesday when it "may have strayed inadvertently into Iranian waters," Britain's Foreign Office said. Sail Bahrain's Web site identified the yacht as the "Kingdom of Bahrain" and said it had been due to join the Dubai-Muscat Offshore Sailing Race, which was to begin Nov. 26. The event was to be the boat's first offshore race.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said that British officials had been in touch about the matter with their Iranian counterparts for nearly a week. It was not immediately clear why British officials had decided to publicize the case now.

"I hope this issue will soon be resolved," Miliband said.

The statement added that the crewmembers "are still in Iran" and were "understood to be safe" but did not specify whether they are and what their legal status is. A call seeking clarification from Britain's Foreign Office was not immediately returned.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry official said he was not aware of reports a British yacht had been stopped.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard has the responsibility for protecting Iranian waters in the Persian Gulf.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Dec. 1)	84.00
South Korean won (Dec. 1)	1,137.00
Euro costs (Dec. 1)	\$1.5430
Dollar buys (Dec. 1)	€0.6481
British pound (Dec. 1)	\$1.69

### Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768
British pound	£1.6453
Canada (Dollar)	1.0575
China (Yuan)	6.8282
Denmark (Krone)	4.9554
Egypt (Pound)	5.4773
Euro	€1.5020/6658
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501
Hungary (Forint)	182.18
Israel (Shekel)	3.8050
Japan (Yen)	86.65
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2853
Norway (Krone)	5.6769
Philippines (Peso)	47.04
Poland (Zloty)	2.76
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3848
South Korea (Won)	1,162.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0035
Thailand (Baht)	33.23
Turkey (New Lira)	1.5273

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.50
Federal funds market rate	0.00-0.25
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	4.21

Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press

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## EDUCATION

# Atheists on campuses come out of the closet

## Students finding a sense of community among fellow nonbelievers

BY ERIC GORSKI  
The Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — The sign sits propped up on a wooden chair, inviting all comers: "Ask an Atheist."

Whenever a student gets within a few feet, Anastasia Bodnar waves and smiles, trying to make a good first impression before eyes drift down to a word many Americans rank down there with "socialist."

Bodnar is the happy face of atheism at Iowa State University. Twice a week at this booth at a campus community center, the PhD student who spends most of her time researching genetically engineered corn takes questions and occasional abuse while trying to raise the profile of religious skepticism.

"A lot of people on campus either don't know we exist or are afraid of us or hate us," said Bodnar, president of the ISU Atheist and Agnostic Society. "People assume we're rabble-rousing, when we're one of the gentlest groups on campus."

As the stigma of atheism has diminished, campus atheists and agnostics are coming out of the closet, fueling a sharp rise in the number of clubs like the 10-year-old group at Iowa State.

Campus affiliates of the Secular Student Alliance, a sort of Godless Campus Crusade for Christ, have increased from 80 in 2007 to 100 in 2008 and 174 this fall, providing the atheist movement new training grounds for future leaders. In another sign of growing acceptance, at least three universities, including Harvard, now have humanist chaplains meeting the needs of the not-so-spiritual.

With the growth has come soul-searching—or the atheist equivalent—about what secular campus groups should look like. It's part of a broader self-examination in



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

**Above:** Iowa State University students Tori Aletheia, of Des Moines, Iowa, left, and Bricelyn Rector, of Sioux City, Iowa, chat while working the "Ask an Atheist" booth at a campus community center in Ames, Iowa, on Nov. 13. **Top:** A shirt belonging to Iowa State University senior Zach Aletheia, of Des Moines.

the atheist movement triggered by the rise of the so-called "new atheists," best-selling authors who denigrate religion and blame it for the world's ills.

Should student atheist groups go it alone or build bridges with Christian groups? Organize political protests or quiet discussion groups? Adopt the militant posture of the new atheists? Or wave and smile?

As teenagers move into young adulthood, some leave God behind. But not in huge numbers.

More than three-quarters of young adults taking part in the National Study of Youth and Religion profess a belief in God. But almost 7 percent fewer believe in God as young adults (ages 18 to 23) than did as teenagers, according to the study, which is tracking the same group of young people

as they mature.

What young adults are less likely to believe in is religion. The number of those who describe themselves as "not religious" nearly doubled, to 27 percent, in young adulthood.

Growing hostility toward religion was found, too. About 1 in 10 young adults are "irreligious" — or actively against religion — after virtually none of them fit

that description as teenagers.

At Iowa State, most of the club's roughly 30 members are "former" somethings, mostly Christians. Many stress that their lives are guided not by anti-religiousness, but belief in science, logic and reason.

"The goal," said Andrew Severin, a PhD student in biophysics, "should be to obtain inner peace for yourself and do random acts of kindness for strangers."

Severin calls himself a "spiritual atheist." He doesn't believe in God or the supernatural but thinks experiences like meditation or brushes with nature can produce biochemical reactions that feel spiritual.

When the ISU club began in 1999, it was mostly a discussion group. But it soon became clear that young people who leave organized religion miss something: a sense of community. So the group added movie and board-game nights and, more recently, twice-monthly Sunday brunches to the calendar.

"It's nice to be around people who aren't going to bash me for believing in nothing," said Bricelyn Rector, a freshman from Sioux City who, like others, described community as the club's greatest asset.

Members also seek to engage their peers at Iowa State, a 28,000-student science and technology school where the student body leans conservative. There's a "Brews and Views" night at a local coffee house and talks by visiting speakers common to any college campus.

"This is not a group of angry atheists. It's a group of very exuberant atheists," said faculty sponsor Hector Avalos, a secular humanist and well-known Biblical scholar who used to be a Pentecostal preacher. "Their primary aim is not to destroy the faith of Christians on campus. It's more live and let live."

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## FACES

# 'New Moon' still filling theaters

Vampires and werewolves continued to howl at the box office with a \$42.5 million weekend for "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."

Summit Entertainment's "Twilight" sequel remained No. 1 over what proved a record Thanksgiving weekend for Hollywood. But "New Moon" was nearly blind-sided for the top spot by a real-life football drama.

"The Blind Side" had a great second weekend with \$40.1 million coming in at No. 2 just behind "New Moon." Released by Warner Bros., the inspirational story of Baltimore Ravens tackle Michael Oher stars Sandra Bullock as a woman whose wealthy family takes in the homeless teen and enrolls him in private school.

New wide releases like Disney's family comedy "Old Dogs" had so-so results this weekend.

The movie stars Robin Williams and John Travolta as single guys forced to mind 7-year-old twins one of them never knew he had fathered. It came in at No. 4 with \$16.8 million for the three-day weekend and \$24.1 million since opening Wednesday.

The Warner Bros. action tale "Ninja Assassin" opened at No. 6 with \$13.1 million over the weekend and \$21 million since Wednesday.

The movie features Korean pop star Rain and Naomie Harris in a thriller about a hit man on the run from his assassination clan.

"Fantastic Mr. Fox," the 20th Century Fox animated comedy with a voice cast led by George Clooney, expanded to nationwide release and pulled in \$7 million to finish at No. 9.

"New Moon" raised its domestic total to \$230.7 million after just 10 days. That's nearly \$40 million more than the first movie, last year's "Twilight," took in during its entire 20-week run.

The movie's worldwide gross stands at \$473.7 million.

The "Twilight" movies star Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner in an adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's books.

— The Associated Press



AP

## Rogen relies on Jewish wit

Seth Rogen doesn't see himself as a comedic actor, he just sees himself as a "funny Jew."

The man behind raunchy flicks like "Superbad" and "Knocked Up" has a theory as to how he ended up making crude comedies.

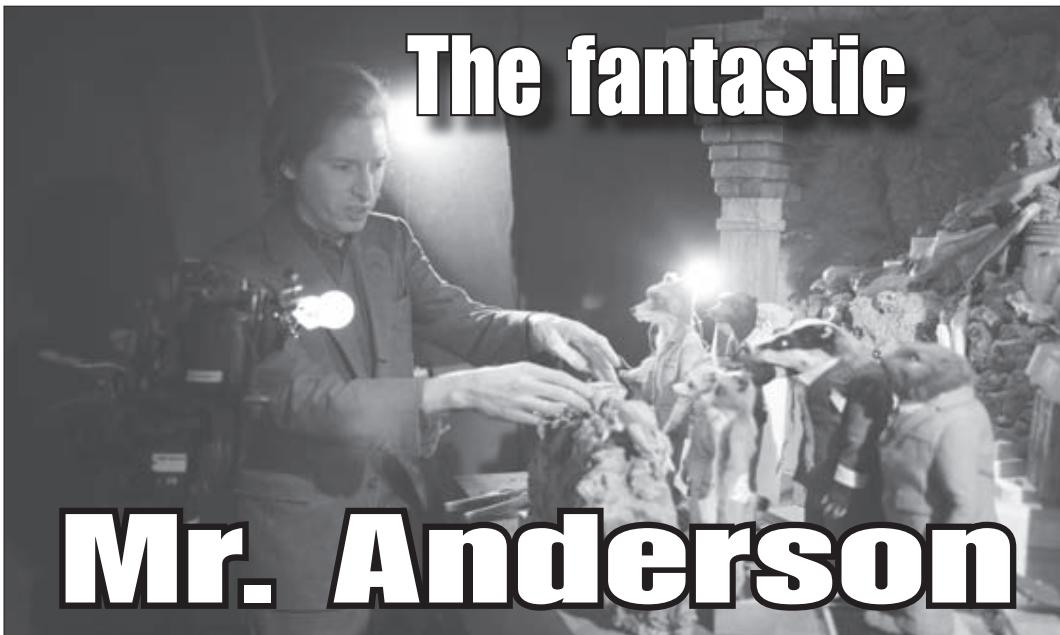
He says there were already too many studly leading men in Hollywood, so he cornered the goofy genre instead.

Rogen explains, "Steve McQueen was taken, so it seemed like 'funny Jew' was next up on the list."

He's used his Jewish roots to develop many of his big screen characters, including the blue blob, B.O.B., from "Monsters vs. Aliens." He says, "Even B.O.B. is a Jew. Many people don't know that."

Rogen admits his career may have never been if it weren't for his nice Jewish mother, who'd let him skip school sometimes after he'd perform stand-up gigs all night at clubs at age 13.

— Wireless Flash



## The fantastic Mr. Anderson

### Director taps Clooney to bring foxy life to stop-action film

Like a gifted child at playtime, filmmaker Wes Anderson is one to marvel over his cinematic toys — a fertile imagination giddy with trains, hydroplanes and foreign automobiles. Many of his trademark preoccupations travel through his first movie, "Bottle Rocket," straight through 2007's "The Darjeeling Limited."

Anderson, though, well knows that his vehicles and curios and even wry-wit scripts alone do not transport the audience. To accomplish that, you have to hire smart. Enter right, George Clooney.

"That's one thing: I wanted to cast him," says Anderson, speaking from New York shortly before his animated film, "Fantastic Mr. Fox" — based on Roald Dahl's beloved tale — opened in the U.S. "I've loved his work in so many movies." Off the top of his head, Anderson cites "Three Kings," "Michael Clayton," even a memorable episode of "ER."

After two fairly tepidly received films ("Darjeeling" and "The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou"), the director landed the actor to voice the title role of the thieving, charming vulpine. But even after casting Clooney, Anderson did not fully appreciate what a fantastic fox he had.

That realization came after some of the voice stars — including Anderson regulars Bill Murray and Jason Schwartzman — headed to their friends' farm to record lines in the atmospheric outdoors. It was there Clooney — veteran of suave, talky con men — lent his textured talents.

"When we went and recorded on the farm in Connecticut, I got documentary recording of some of these roles," says Anderson. "The thing I did not realize — until only afterward, when I went to the

cutting room — was how much he brings to the performance and how much we'd already gotten. For the animators, these voices are their key inspiration."

The Oscar-winning Clooney voices a bushy-tailed burglar who settles down into duller life as a family man-fox and newspaper columnist before his midlife crisis, in fox years, compels him to filch again from three menacing farmers. Anderson, who expanded Dahl's story considerably, says "Fox" was the first book he owned — at least the first one he ever wrote his name in. Now, critics are saying the director, stylistically, has made the story his own — with droll irony and cultural reference points galore, the Andersonian signature is all over it.

The filmmaker says he was inspired, too, by Meryl Streep, who voices Mr. Fox's wife, Felicity (a nod to Dahl's second wife).

"I recorded with her in Paris," says Anderson. "And I felt like she actually changed my approach to the movie. She brought so much emotion to it."

The Streep sessions were part of the continual stoking of the film's

Fox Searchlight Pictures

**Top:** Wes Anderson on the set of the stop-action flick "Fantastic Mr. Fox."

**Below:** The title character Mr. Fox with his friends in the movie.



potential. Anderson co-wrote the screenplay — with "The Squid and the Whale" director Noah Baumbach — after being inspired by a pilgrimage to Gipsy House, Dahl's home in Buckinghamshire, England, in 2000.

"It was muggy and gray and colorless — the house wasn't, but the landscape was. ... The place was fascinating," says Anderson, noting Dahl (who's gifted Hollywood with Willy Wonka and "James and the Giant Peach") is a hero of his.

"Fox" has a striking palette — it's a literal movable feast of autumnal tones, a Thanksgiving pageant of true-fur textures and watercolor skies.

True to his rep, a demanding Anderson says he sweated every stop-motion detail of his warm-eyed woodland figurines, which he affectionately calls "puppets."

— Michael Cavna/  
The Washington Post



AP  
Above: George Clooney, who voices the movie's title character, with the director at the photo call for the film during the London Film Festival in October.

# S. Koreans get their iPhones

The Associated Press

SEOUL — South Koreans got their first taste of the iPhone on Saturday as the multifunctional communication and entertainment device made its long awaited debut in one of the world's most technologically sophisticated societies.

Though already available in other Asian countries such as Japan — where it went on sale last year — the slim smartphone got a late start in South Korea amid regulatory hurdles and tough negotiations between manufacturer Apple Inc. and a local telecommunications company.

But the waiting finally came to

an end for about 850 South Koreans who took possession of their coveted iPhones at a boisterous official launching event in Seoul with blaring music and flashing lights.

"I'm really happy because I waited for a long time," said Kim Minju, a dentist who traveled to Seoul from the regional city of Cheongju. Kim said she planned to use her iPhone to study English.

Huh Jin-seok, the first recipient of the iPhone, had waited in line more than 26 hours outside the arena where the event took place. The 25-year-old university student expressed joy, though acknowledging being "a little bit tired."

South Korea is home to world-

beating technology corporations including Samsung Electronics Co. and LG Electronics Inc. The country is also known for its high penetration rate for broadband Internet as well as government encouragement for IT-related innovation.

But Smartphones — advanced mobile phones with computer-like capabilities — are just taking off.

"We're hoping that this iPhone will be a trigger point for the smartphone market in Korea," said Yang Hyun-mi, chief strategy officer at KT Corp., Apple's local partner. Smartphones make up just 1 percent of all cell phones in South Korea, she said.



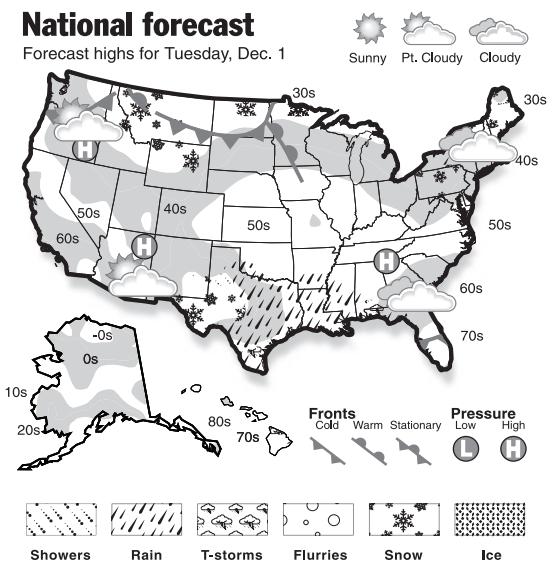
South Korean college student Joo Do-hoon talks on an Apple iPhone 3G he bought Saturday at a launching ceremony in Seoul. South Koreans began getting their coveted iPhones amid fanfare and expectations they will shake up a local market dominated by domestic giants Samsung and LG.

AWN YOUNG-JOON/AP

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, Dec. 1



### Monday's global temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	La Paz	57	39	rn
Amsterdam	49	44	rn	Lima	72	64	rn
Athens	71	48	pc	Lisbon	60	48	rn
Auckland	69	60	rn	London	46	42	rn
Baghdad	50	45	clr	Madrid	49	41	rn
Basra	64	44	clr	Managua	91	71	clr
Bahrain	75	67	rn	Manila	88	78	pc
Bangkok	91	73	pc	Mecca	93	71	pc
Barbados	86	77	pc	Melbourne	64	54	rn
Barcelona	62	44	rn	Mexico City	73	44	pc
Beijing	48	23	clr	Montevideo	73	64	rn
Beirut	72	58	rn	Montreal	41	33	rn
Belgrade	57	33	clr	Moscow	41	37	cdy
Berlin	53	41	pc	Nairobi	77	59	pc
Bermuda	71	64	pc	Nassau	80	61	pc
Bogota	68	55	rn	New Delhi	71	51	clr
Brasilia	81	66	rn	Nice	59	46	rn
Brisbane	87	73	clr	Osaka	57	37	rn
Brussels	50	44	rn	Oslo	32	30	sn
Bucharest	57	35	rn	Panama	86	75	rn
Budapest	51	28	pc	Paris	51	42	rn
Buenos Aires	75	62	pc	Perth	85	52	clr
Cairo	70	56	pc	Prague	51	33	clr
Calgary	48	24	pc	Rio de Janeiro	89	75	rn
Caracas	89	75	clr	Rome	59	41	pc
Colombo	86	73	clr	San Jose	82	65	pc
Copenhagen	48	42	rn	San Juan	85	75	rn
Dhahran	86	57	pc	San Salvador	89	64	pc
Dhaka	82	60	clr	Santiago	76	52	pc
Dili	92	74	rn	Sao Paulo	78	69	rn
Dubai	84	72	clr	Sapporo	39	28	clr
Dublin	43	32	rn	Seoul	42	39	rn
Frankfurt	56	44	rn	Singapore	87	77	rn
Geneva	53	42	rn	Sofia	59	37	pc
Guatemala	77	56	pc	Stockholm	41	33	pc
Hanoi	81	68	pc	Sydney	87	66	clr
Harare	87	59	rn	Taipei	73	66	pc
Havana	84	57	clr	Tegucigalpa	80	66	pc
Helsinki	41	37	rn	Tehran	45	39	rn
Hong Kong	75	68	pc	Tel Aviv	71	52	clr
Islamabad	74	44	pc	Tokyo	53	48	rn
Istanbul	60	48	rn	Turin	45	40	rn
Jakarta	89	76	rn	Toronto	46	33	rn
Jerusalem	71	52	clr	Tunis	74	55	pc
Johannesburg	79	60	clr	Valletta	69	55	pc
Kabul	53	28	pc	Vancouver	52	43	rn
Kiev	43	35	rn	Vienna	50	34	pc
Kuala Lumpur	87	74	rn	Warsaw	49	35	clr
Kuwait	65	50	clr	Zurich	41	28	cdy

Weather Underground • AP

### Tuesday's U.S. temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Casper	41	30	Cldy	Erie	43	33	Snow	Jacksonville	67	51	Cldy	Montgomery	61	38	PCldy	Richmond	56	36	Clr	Springfield,Ill	54	33	Clr
Abilene, Tex	38	34	Snow	Charleston,S.C.	63	44	PCldy	Eugene	50	34	rn	Junoave	34	29	Snow	Nashville	59	32	Cldy	Roanoke	55	36	PCldy	Springfield,Mo	60	32	Clr
Akron, Ohio	41	29	Cldy	Charleston,W.Va.	50	33	PCldy	Evansville	55	33	Clr	Kansas City	60	37	Clr	New Orleans	58	50	Rain	Rochester	42	29	Cldy	Syracuse	42	30	Cldy
Albany,N.Y.	43	27	Cldy	Charlotte,N.C.	60	34	Cld	Fairbanks	16	00	Cld	Key West	80	70	PCldy	New York City	48	36	Cldy	Rockford	51	30	Cldy	Tallahassee	65	45	Cldy
Albuquerque	47	29	PCldy	Chattanooga	59	33	Cld	Fargo	41	28	clr	Knoxville	55	33	Clr	Newark	48	34	Cldy	Sacramento	60	36	Cldy	Tampa	75	61	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	46	31	Cldy	Cheyenne	45	22	PCldy	Flagstaff	48	19	Cld	Lake Charles	56	49	Rain	Norfolk,Va.	55	41	Cld	St Louis	61	37	Cld	Toledo	46	33	Cldy
Amarillo	38	33	Cldy	Chicago	50	32	Cld	Flint	44	29	Cldy	Lansing	45	33	Cldy	North Platte	52	20	Cld	Pt Petersburg	73	64	PCldy	Topeka	59	32	Cldy
Anchorage	30	26	Snow	Cincinnati	51	32	Cld	Fort Smith	57	33	Cldy	Las Vegas	66	39	Cldy	Oklahoma City	54	33	Cldy	St Thomas	86	76	PCldy	Tucson	59	37	Cldy
Asheville	56	31	Cld	Cleveland	45	31	Cldy	Fort Wayne	47	31	PCldy	Lexington	52	33	PCldy	Omaha	54	30	Cldy	Salem,Ore.	50	35	Cldy	Tulsa	55	35	PCldy
Atlanta	59	36	PCldy	Colorado Springs	54	27	PCldy	Fresno	61	36	Cld	Lincoln	56	29	Cldy	Orlando	76	56	Cldy	Salt Lake City	45	26	PCldy	Tupelo	59	35	PCldy
Atlantic City	50	35	PCldy	Columbia,S.C.	62	39	Cld	Goodland	53	27	Cld	Little Rock	54	35	PCldy	Paducah	58	34	Cldy	San Angelo	37	36	Snow	Waco	49	38	Rain
Austin	49	42	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	63	39	PCldy	Grand Junction	50	21	Cld	Los Angeles	70	50	Cld	Pendleton	43	32	Cldy	San Antonio	49	42	Rain	Washington,D.C.	50	36	PCldy
Baltimore	50	35	PCldy	Columbus, Ohio	49	33	PCldy	Grand Rapids	45	33	Cldy	Louisville	54	37	Cld	Peoria	54	31	Cld	San Diego	64	51	Cld	W. Palm Beach	80	62	PCldy
Baton Rouge	57	46	Rain	Concord,N.H.	42	27	PCldy	Great Falls	32	28	Snow	Lubbock	35	27	Snow	Philadelphia	49	36	Cldy	San Francisco	62	49	Cld	Wichita	57	32	Cldy
Billings	39	36	Cldy	Corpus Christi	53	48	Rain	Green Bay	45	29	Cldy	Macau	64	37	PCldy	Phoenix	69	49	Cld	San Jose	64	45	Cld	Wichita Falls	50	35	Cldy
Birmingham	60	37	Cld	Dallas-Ft Worth	49	40	Rain	Greensboro,N.C.	57	33	Cld	Madison	48	28	PCldy	Pittsburgh	43	31	Cldy	Santa Fe	45	23	PCldy	Wilkes-Barre	41	29	Cldy
Bismarck	40	26	Cld	Dayton	49	31	Cld	Harrisburg	48	33	Cldy	Medford	50	30	Cldy	Pocatello	39	16	PCldy	Portland,Maine	41	27	PCldy	Wilmington,Del.	49	35	PCldy
Boise	44	27	PCldy	Daytona Beach	74	56	Cldy	Hartford Spfld	44	30	PCldy	Memphis	61	38	PCldy	Portland,Ore.	50	38	Cldy	Savannah	64	44	PCldy	Yakima	43	28	PCldy
Boston	44	34	Cld	Denver	49	23	PCldy	Helena	33	27	Snow	Miami Beach	81	66	PCldy	Providence	45	34	Cld	Seattle	47	39	Cldy	Youngstown	43	30	Cldy
Bridgeport	47	34	PCldy	Des Moines	56	33	Cld	Honolulu	82	70	PCldy	Midland-Odessa	37	31	Snow	Pueblo	56	19	PCldy	Sioux City	54	26	PCldy	Sioux Falls	47	32	Cldy
Brownsville	57	49	Rain	Detroit	45	31	Cldy	Houston	52	46	Rain	Milwaukee	48	32	Cldy	Rapid City	44	25	Cld	South Bend	52	25	PCldy	Spokane	37	29	Cld
Buffalo	41	31	Cldy	Duluth	38	27	Cldy	Huntsville	60	34	PCldy	Mpls-St Paul	45	30	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	59	35	Cld	Treno							
Burlington,Vt.	37	26	Cldy	El Paso	44	30	Cldy	Indianapolis	51	33	Cld	Missoula	41	26	Cldy	Reno	52	25	PCldy								
Caribou,Maine	30	22	Cldy	Elkins	44	30	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	57	39	Cldy	Mobile	60	46	Rain												

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## ADDRESSES

U.S. MAIL: Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002  
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: 23-17 Roppongi, 7-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo  
106-0032, Japan

FAX: DSN 229-3132; civ (+81) (03) 3408-8936

E-MAIL: Readers Forum: letters@pstripes.osd.mil

Advertising: advertising@pstripes.osd.mil

Marketing: marketing@pstripes.osd.mil

Circulation: circulation@pstripes.osd.mil

CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,  
Washington DC 20045-1301.

Phone: DSN 312-763-0900 or civ (+1) (202) 761-0900.

Fax: (+1) (202) 761-0890

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Terry Leonard.

529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1301.

Phone: DSN 312-763-0535 or civ (+1) (202) 761-0535.

E-mail: leonard.terry@pstripes.osd.mil

## HOW TO CALL US

GENERAL MANAGER: John D. Panasiewicz,

tel DSN 229-3121; civ (+81) (3) 6385-3121

READERS' FORUM: tel DSN 229-3166; civ (+81) (3) 6385-3166;

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## NEWS BUREAUS

## JAPAN

Tokyo Editors: Thomas P. Skeen, Chris Carlson, Unit 45002, APO AP 96337-5002; tel DSN 229-3357/3158; civ (03) 6385-3357/3158; fax DSN 229-3271; civ (+81) (03) 3408-8936; e-mail skeent@pstripes.osd.mil; carlson@pstripes.osd.mil

Tokyo Reporters: Teri Weaver, Hana Kusumoto and Tim Wrightman, tel DSN 229-3105, 229-3152 and 229-3166; civ (+81) (3) 6385-3105/3152/3166; fax DSN 229-3271; e-mail weavert@pstripes.osd.mil; kusumoto@pstripes.osd.mil; wrightman@pstripes.osd.mil

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Assistant Bureau Chief: Derek Turner, tel civ (+1) (202) 761-0860; e-mail Turnerd@pstripes.osd.mil; Reporters: Jeff Schogol, tel DSN (312) 222-1926; tel civ (+1) (703) 692-1926;

e-mail jeffrey.schogol@pstripes.osd.mil; Leo Shane, tel DSN (312) 763-1183; tel civ (+1) (202) 761-1183; e-mail shane@pstripes.osd.mil; Kevin Baron, tel DSN (312) 222-1875; tel civ (+1) (703) 692-1875;

e-mail baron@pstripes.osd.mil and Megan McCloskey, e-mail mccloskey@pstripes.osd.mil; 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; fax civ (+1) (202) 761-0890

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## The dark side of friendship on Facebook

By STEPHEN RANDALL

I'm not so sure I like my friends anymore.

I used to like them — honest. We'd have lunch, talk on the phone or exchange e-mails, and they all seemed normal enough. But then came Facebook, and I was introduced to a sad fact: Many of my friends have dark sides that they had kept from me. Sure, there were times these dark sides would surface — after too many drinks, say — but apologies and denials would follow, and all seemed healthy ... or at least acceptable.

Today my friends trumpet the more unpleasant aspects of their personalities via Facebook status updates. No longer hidden or disavowed, they're thrown in my face like infomercials on late-night TV — unavoidable and endless advertisements for the worst aspects of their personalities.

Take Fred. If you were to have lunch with him, you'd find him warm, down-to-earth and self-effacing. Read his status updates and you realize he's an insufferable, food-obsessed bore. He'd pause on his way to save a drowning man to sip a cup of volcanic coffee — and then write about it. (Fred's not his real name, of course. None of these names is real. It's bad enough I dislike my friends. I don't want them to dislike me too.)

Take Andy. You won't find a smarter CEO anywhere, but in tough economic times, he's a CEO without a company to run. So he plays "Mafia Wars" on Facebook. He's doing well — level 731, whatever that means. And thanks to Facebook and his status updates, I know he's playing about 18 hours a day. Andy, you've run four companies — and this is how you spend your downtime? What happened to golf? What happened to getting another job?

And then there's Arty. He's smart, he's funny, he's competent. On Facebook, however, he's a teenager, constantly threatening to drive drunk or blow stuff up with fireworks. He also suffers from self-induced stomach ailments. He posts pictures of a huge and dangerous meal, predicts the worst and then documents the fallout in a follow-up post. The acronym TMI was invented for Arty's gastric-distress updates.

Liz is positive the H1N1 vaccine will kill us all and that we should avoid it. Chris likes to post at least 20 times a day on every site he can find, so I get to read his thoughts twice, once on Facebook and once on Twitter. Ed can't go to bed at night without letting us all know what he's accomplished that day — which is usually the same thing he accomplished the day before and will accomplish the next day.

In real life, I don't see these sides of people. Face to face, my friends edit themselves, showing me their best. They're nice, smart people, and there's a give-and-take to normal conversations. They don't talk incessantly about their work. They don't point fingers with Glenn Beck bluster or sound like crazy callers on talk radio.

## Doonesbury



facebook

Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.



Screenshot/Facebook.com

But face to Facebook, my friends are like a blind date gone horribly wrong, one in which you sit there listening while the person on the other side of the table blathers on, pretty much forgetting you exist and not always making the best impression.

And yet I'm hooked on Facebook. I sign on several times a day. Facebook is like hearing your neighbors bicker through a thin apartment wall or watching characters on reality TV self-destruct. The voyeuristic appeal is addicting. I don't want to know the dumb side of my friends, just like I don't really care about Jon and Kate Gosselin's marital problems. But I can't get any of it out of my life.

Sometimes, my friends aren't stupid, they're just boring, keeping all of us abreast of the minutiae of their day. "I'm tired," they'll write. That's it. That's the whole update. (Hmm, maybe more sleep and less "Mafia Wars," I think, but I keep my hands off the keyboard.) And they egg each other on. "I have a headache," someone will write. "Why don't you take some Motrin?" suggests a commenter. (Sounds like a good idea to me; maybe I should second it.) Interior thoughts become exterior on a regular basis. "Today I'm glad to be alive," someone will post, even though they rarely talk like that. Then others chime in: "Me, too." Often, all is well in the land of Facebook. Mundane but well.

I've yet to post a status update myself, or comment on anyone else's. Is there any reason to think I'd come off as any smarter? Any less self-absorbed? Any less boring? It's not so much that I censor myself when I talk to my friends, but I generally make a conscious effort not to alienate them.

Still, I'm left with a dilemma. Who is my real friend? Is it the Liz I have lunch with ... or the anti-vaccine lunatic on Facebook? Is it the guy who understands business better

than anyone I know ... or the case of arrested development who repelled the Yakuza in "Mafia Wars"? Is it the Fred I can grab a sandwich with ... or the Fred who weeps if he's at a party and the wine isn't up to his standards?

I know too much about them. Lunch with them is like meeting Eliot Spitzer and trying to keep the hooker out of my mind.

And what do they think of me? The guy who lurks online, afraid to reveal the simplest fact about himself while judging others and making fun of their comments? I probably don't seem like much of a prize either.

Stephen Randall is the deputy editor of Playboy. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

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## By GARRY TRUDEAU



## Accident sends car into river

**NH** ACWORTH — New Hampshire state police say a man lost control of his car on an Acworth road, allegedly avoiding a deer, and went over a guard rail and embankment, coming to rest in a river.

Sean Matheson, 37, of Henniker was taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening.

Police said the initial investigation showed that alcohol was a factor in the accident on Route 123a. Matheson was charged with driving while intoxicated.

It took a wrecker nearly two hours to remove the vehicle from the river.

## Park rangers recover body at Grand Canyon

**AZ** GRAND CANYON — Officials at Grand Canyon National Park say a man's body has been found 200 feet below the canyon's South Rim.

Park spokeswoman Maureen Oltrogge said the park's communication center began getting calls about a man spotted over the edge in an area between Mather Point and Pipe Creek Vista, east of the South Rim Village.

She said rangers rappelled down to the man's body and prepared it for transport out of the canyon via helicopter. His body will be sent to the Coconino County Medical Examiner in Flagstaff.

Oltrogge said the man was visiting the park with his son, daughter-in-law and other family members. His name was not immediately released.

## Hairstylist learns true meaning of 'pay phone'

**CA** LOS ANGELES — When a Los Angeles hairstylist accepted a collect call from a customer, she had no idea it would run more than \$45. And no idea that's just what collect calls from pay phones cost in the mobile age.

Barbara James gladly accepted the call from client Pat Devine, 84, who said she was running late and called from a pay phone because her cell phone had died.

James' bill from Network Communications International showed about \$37 for the quick call, about \$5 in regulatory fees and taxes, and about \$3 for a "billing cost recovery fee."

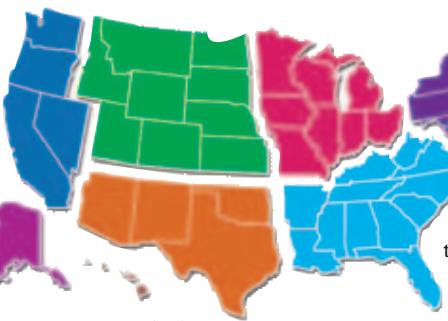
NCIC president Bill Pope said the tiny number of collect calls makes such prices inevitable.

## 'Sidewalk Santas' get dropped due to economy

**NY** NEW YORK — The economy has taken a toll on a New York tradition: the "Sidewalk Santas" who collected money for the poor on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

The 107-year-old program has gone online for the second year in a row.

The nonprofit Volunteers of America-Greater New York said it doesn't have the money to manage and pay formerly homeless men to play Santa and gather donations. Spokeswoman Rachel Weinstein said that many are elderly and in



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

fragile health.

Online contributions to Sidewalk Santa will still buy food vouchers for people who can't afford holiday meals.

### Windward Oahu to lose last private bowling alley

**HI** KAILUA — The only non-military bowling alley on Windward Oahu is shutting down, meaning avid bowlers on that side of the island will have to travel 20 miles or more each way to indulge in the sport.

The owners of Pali Lanes in Kailua plan to close the venerable alley two weeks before its 50-year lease is up. General Manager Jean Tamala said the alley is no longer financially feasible because fewer leagues are signing up to compete in the bad economy.

The closure will leave Oahu with only two private bowling alleys, Aiea Bowl in Aiea and Leeward Bowl in Pearl City. Civilians can use the lanes at the Marine Corps base in Kaneohe Bay, but some regular bowlers say gaining access to the base is time-consuming.

### School district sues plant over air pollution

**OH** ADDYSTON — A school district near Cincinnati is suing a plastics plant, accusing it of continuing to release chemicals in the air that exceed government safety standards.



**John Fuki volunteers in the kitchen at the St. Anthony Dining Room in San Francisco. The St. Anthony Foundation provides meals for the poor and homeless.**

Three Rivers School District closed an elementary school across the street from the plant in 2005. The district said it has been unable to sell the building and is burdened by crowded classrooms.

Students were shifted to two other elementary schools, and some courses are taught in cafeterias or storage areas.

The lawsuit seeks compensatory and punitive damages. The plant had been cited with several environmental violations.

Terri Fitzpatrick, a spokeswoman for plastics maker Lanxess Corp., which previously owned the plant, said the firm took steps to enhance environmental controls.

### Boston woman delivers grandkid on Thanksgiving

**MA** BOSTON — A Boston woman has succeeded at one of the all-time great Thanksgiving Day juggling acts: She cooked the turkey while helping deliver her baby granddaughter.

Patricia McCalop was in the middle of preparing the meal when her daughter suddenly went into labor two weeks early.

McCalop called 911, and a dispatcher talked her through the delivery and helped her confirm that the baby girl was breathing.

Paramedics arrived shortly afterward and took Africa McCalop and her newborn to the hospital. They are both in good health.

Patricia McCalop said she kept running between the kitchen and her daughter in labor.

### Colorado governor's lawn gets 'teepeed'

**CO** DENVER — It wasn't fresh mountain snow but toilet paper that blanketed the front lawn of the Colorado governor's mansion Thanksgiving morning.

Gov. Bill Ritter told KUSA-TV that he and his wife noticed shortly after dawn that someone had "teepeed" the front lawn.

State officials said it was the first time that happened to the 101-year-old landmark.

Ritter joked about it, saying he has teenage children at home and that it was probably a prank. First Lady Jeannie Ritter said she would be worried if the house had been egged or damaged but the toilet paper prank is harmless.

The 1908 Georgian revival home is near the state Capitol in Denver.

### Strange lights in Lufkin? Blame lit lanterns

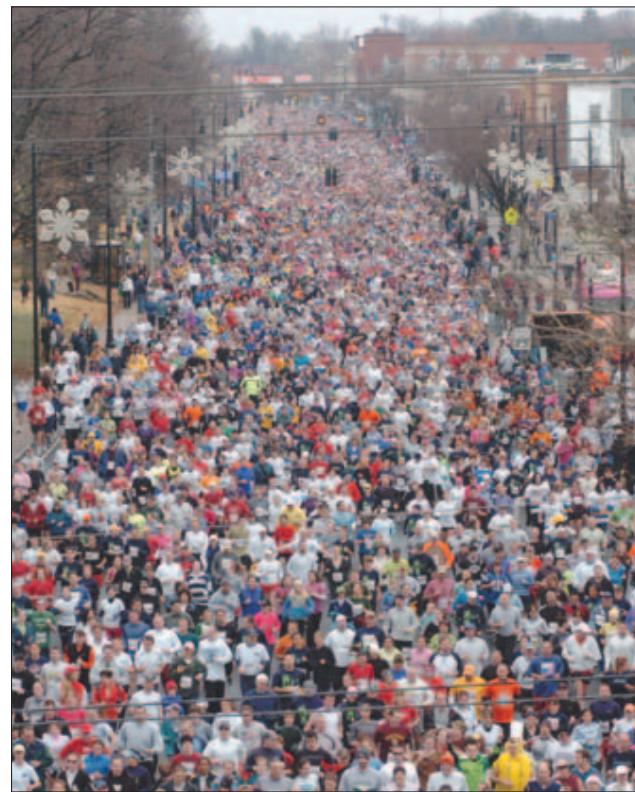
**TX** LUFKIN — Lanterns apparently were part of love in the air that prompted calls about unusual lights above Lufkin.

Some residents reported seeing "strange orange lights" floating over a park and headed toward Nacogdoches.

Now some participants in a wedding say the ceremony included the release of several dozen lit Chinese lanterns attached to balloons.

Gail Cummings, who reported the foreign lights, told the Lufkin Daily News that she hopes this is the explanation, to "put things to rest."

Fire Marshal Lee Fran Skelton said it's a dangerous idea to send anything burning into the air because "you have no idea where the lanterns will drop."



Running cheek by jowl

Runners make their way down Main Street during the Manchester (Conn.) Road Race.



Lights as big as her hand

Caldwell Christmas tree during the tree lighting in Caldwell, Idaho.



Dozing amid departures

Atlanta resident Reggie Crichlow, 27, naps as he waits for his father to arrive from Oklahoma at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.



Winter waterland

Elana Padnos, 3, of Pittsburgh waves to Scuba Santa at the Newport Aquarium in Newport, Ky., during a visit to the Aquarium on the banks of the Ohio River.



The sparks of genius

Bruce Hofmann uses a grinder to work on the floor pan of a 1978 Pontiac Trans Am at JEMS Classics near New Castle, Del. His partner, Chip Romano, calls him an artist with metal.



Put your best skate forward

Holiday shoppers spend a sunny afternoon ice skating at Union Square in San Francisco.

## Walmart's xmas-tree section up in flames

**NY** WESTBURY — Police say a fire has broken out among Christmas trees for sale outside a Walmart on New York's Long Island during a busy holiday shopping weekend.

There are no immediate reports of injuries.

Bentonville, Ark.-based Walmart Stores Inc. spokesman Dan Fogelman said the busy store was evacuated because of the fire in the store's garden shop.

Fogelman said it is unclear how many people were in the store at the time or how much damage was caused. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

## Inmate seeks hearing over execution method

**OH** COLUMBUS — An Ohio inmate fighting the state's new execution procedure is asking a federal court to intervene.

Kenneth Biros is scheduled to be the first inmate executed under Ohio's change from a three-drug intravenous lethal injection to a one-drug injection, with a two-drug muscle injection as a backup.

His attorney filed papers asking for a hearing by the full 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. A three-judge panel of the court then ruled that Biros' execution could proceed.

Biros killed Tami Engstrom, 22, in 1991 after he offered to drive her home from a bar.

## Small plane lands on Phoenix street

**AZ** PHOENIX — A Federal Aviation Administration official said a small plane approaching Phoenix Deer Valley Airport was forced to make an emergency landing on a city street about three miles west of the airport.

No one was injured.

FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said the pilot reported engine problems that forced him to land on 43rd Avenue in northwest Phoenix.

Brown did not have specifics on the engine problems.

However, she said pilots don't usually land on a road unless they have a serious reason to do so.

The single-engine plane, a Van's Aircraft RV-6, was not damaged. The plane is an experimental aircraft with a 23-foot wingspan.

## Rancher gives land for conservation easement

**HI** HONOLULU — A ranch owner concerned about construction in parts of upcountry Maui signed over 12,000 acres of his property to a Hawaii land trust, creating the state's largest conservation easement.

Pardee Erdman, owner of the Ulupalakua Ranch, told The Maui News that he approached the Maui Coastal Land Trust almost two years ago after watching parts of the island become carved up by giant homes or exclusive subdivisions.

"We saw development creeping up, and we didn't want it to happen here," he said.

The land trust will monitor the

property to make sure the land is preserved in perpetuity.

The agreement quadruples the area under the trust's management.

## Holiday package causes state Capitol evacuation

**TN** NASHVILLE — A package for Tennessee's governor turned out not too jolly for staffers at the Capitol.

Safety Department spokesman Mike Browning said officials evacuated the building for almost two hours when the mail room found a package addressed to Gov. Phil Bredesen that contained moving parts.

The department's bomb squad and agents from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were called. The package was destroyed, revealing a mechanical Santa Claus from a company in Georgia.

## Body of missing teacher found in towed vehicle

**TX** HOUSTON — Authorities are searching for three suspects after the body of a missing Houston teacher was found in his abandoned SUV, which had been towed to a police impound lot.

The Houston Chronicle reports that officials believe Heladio Rojas Perales, 35, may have been killed at a friend's Wharton home more than a week ago, then dumped with his vehicle in a rural section of Fort Bend County.

A landowner contacted Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office about the abandoned vehicle. A supervisor then discovered the body.

## Workers hurt in subway crash; injuries minor

**DC** WASHINGTON — Officials say a Washington Metro system subway train crashed into the back of another at a rail yard, injuring three workers.

D.C. Metro said in a news release that the injuries were minor and not life-threatening. No passengers were on board.

Metro said a six-car train was returning to the West Falls Church Rail Yard when it rear-ended a parked six-car train. Two workers were cleaning the parked train to get it ready for service.

## 8 workers injured in explosion at school

**VA** NEWPORT NEWS — Eight workers have been injured in an explosion at a middle school in southeastern Virginia.

Newport News Police spokesman Lou Thurston said the workers suffered varying injuries in the blast at Crittenden Middle School.

The cause was being investigated.

The injured workers were employees of T.R. Driscoll Inc. of Lumberton, N.C., a contracting company that had been doing repair work at the school for about five weeks.

Thurston says the explosion sparked a fire and caused a large wall to collapse in the school's shop area.

# Horoscope

The effects of the Gemini full moon are felt in the form of intellectual games, conversations and the kind of casual, fun exchanges that usually happen in the halls of work — only the whole world is your water cooler. The lunar transit through Gemini is an excellent opportunity for sharing tips, hopping onto trends, joking, mixing and mingling.

# Holiday Mathis



## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY**  
**(Dec. 2).** You'll make strong connections this month. The shared adventures will bring memories for a lifetime. In the spring, you'll be a star at work. You are different from the others and will be recognized for the unique talents you offer. Windfalls come in April and August. Commitments happen in June and September. Aquarius and Taurus people adore you. \ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are beginning to break out of an established routine. This is an uphill battle, but once you get to the top, the view makes it all worthwhile. In hindsight, you will wonder why you ever hesitated.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You feel like the universe is pinching you right now, but it's just a growing pain. You may or may not be aware of it, but you are in the process of revamping the way you see the world. Just a little bit, but it's a significant little bit.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Spontaneously breaking into song isn't something you typically do, but today you just might. Your life is so upbeat that it really could use a soundtrack, and you know just how to score it.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Just like a small child on his or her birthday, sometimes you get so excited you can barely keep it together. Not many people can be this free. Your friends love you for your ability to be completely, unabashedly thrilled.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You have been watching a conflict between two people in your circle devel-

between two people in your circle develop. [Create360.com](http://Create360.com)

# SUDOKU



**Difficulty: Medium**

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

## **Yesterday's solution**



© Universal Press Syndicate

Frazz



Garfield



Baby Blues



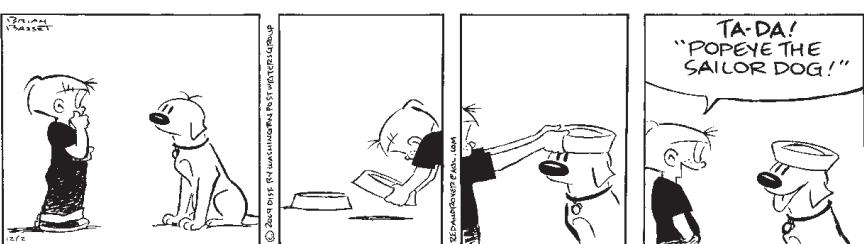
Jump Start



Zits



Red &amp; Rover



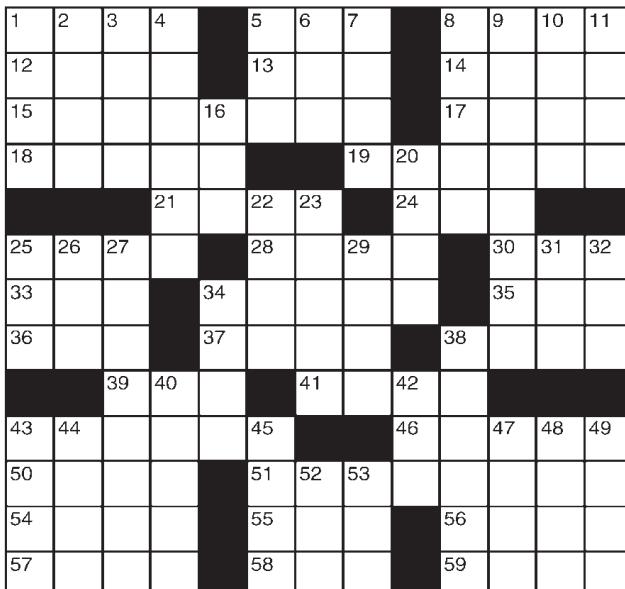
Hagar



Better or Worse



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

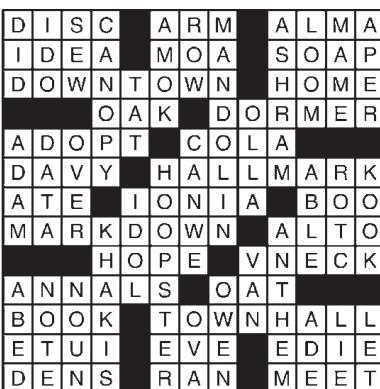


### ACROSS

- 58 Scarlet  
 59 Brutus' being  
 1 Tater  
 5 Spade or heart  
 8 Name for a Dalmatian  
 12 Top-notch  
 13 — carte  
 14 Poi source  
 15 Stove type  
 17 From the start  
 18 Young hog  
 19 Don quickly  
 21 Sodium chloride  
 24 Violinist Kavafian  
 25 "Clue" weapon  
 28 Rams fans?  
 30 Sajak or Summerall  
 33 Commotion  
 34 "Stop, sailor!"  
 35 Listener  
 36 Banned bug spray  
 37 1492 ship  
 38 Wan  
 39 Carnival city  
 41 Swallow hard  
 43 Rosebush protectors  
 46 Ruin  
 50 Drench  
 51 Deep-dish apple dessert  
 54 Church section  
 55 Past  
 56 Crystal gazer  
 57 Emeritus (Abbr.)

- 25 "Awesome, dude!"  
 26 Peculiar  
 27 Braised beef  
 29 Birthright barterer  
 31 "That feels so good!"  
 32 Attempt  
 34 In due time  
 38 Place near  
 40 Seeing 58-Across  
 42 1960s hallucinogen  
 43 Despot  
 44 Crosby co-star, often  
 45 Practice pugilism  
 47 Has bills  
 48 Mid-month day  
 49 Muse's harp  
 52 Time of your life?  
 53 Affirmative action

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 12-2

### CRYPTOQUIP

S Q R   S H X   L T Y Q W X D T F O R

H X J R D   S R T J R P   G K   S X   W D C R D S

T   N R C X O G S W X D T N I   D R H

L T F N W U   U T O O R P   K X O O I - R Y S Q R N .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FUNNY OPERA ABOUT A SPECIAL MANGO THAT HAS THE ABILITY TO CAST SPELLS: "THE MAGIC FRUIT."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals W

# Sister loves new family too much

**Dear Abby:** I am a 30-year-old woman who has recently discovered my biological family. I have a wonderful half-brother and several other amazing people I can now call family.

The issue I'm struggling with is my profound attraction to my half-brother. I know it's morally wrong. Your perspective would be very much appreciated.

— Conflicted in Southern California

**Dear Conflicted:** Physical attraction is a reflex — and not something we can control. Our behavior, on the other hand, is something we CAN control.

This is a case of wrong time, wrong place. If you had been a member of the royal family in Egypt 3,000 years ago, you could have married your half-brother. But this is 2009 and the USA, so you're just going to have to satisfy your physical attraction with someone less incestuous.

**Dear Abby:**

Is it rude to label one's leftover food when staying with relatives? My husband, daughter and I visit his family often. When we go out to eat and bring leftovers back to the house, we usually label them.

Recently, my husband's sister (who is 16) asked if she could eat the rest of some pizza we had bought the night before. I politely responded that I planned to have it for lunch. She remarked that she thinks it is funny that we are so protective of our food. It got me to thinking — is our behavior odd?

— Taken Aback in Washington

**Dear Taken Aback:** Considering that you come from a family in which anything in the fridge was considered fair game among your siblings, it's not odd at all. And when your sister-in-law said what she did, you should have explained that to her.



**Dear Abby:** My 20-year-old daughter, "Marissa," is self-centered, lies compulsively and does not consider the consequences of her actions. She has been diagnosed with narcissistic personality disorder. We have just learned that she is now pregnant, and her father and I are not happy about it.

We will eventually be meeting the parents of the child's father. Is it our responsibility to discuss Marissa's problems with them?

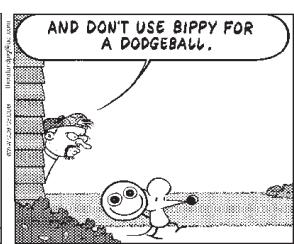
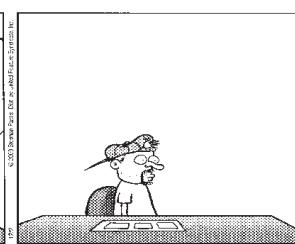
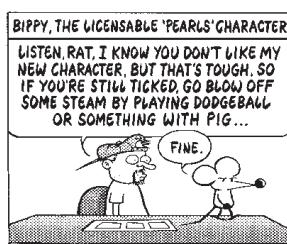
— Trying To Decide in Wis.

**Dear Trying To Decide:** Does the young man know about your daughter's diagnosis and what it means? If not, then HE should be told and the implications explained to him.

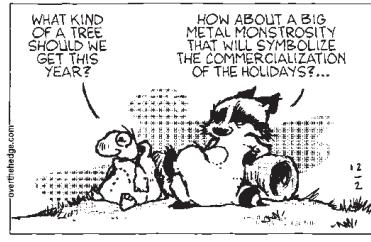
Because your daughter's personality disorder will affect their son and the grandchild, his parents should also be informed. Ideally, he is the person who should do it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

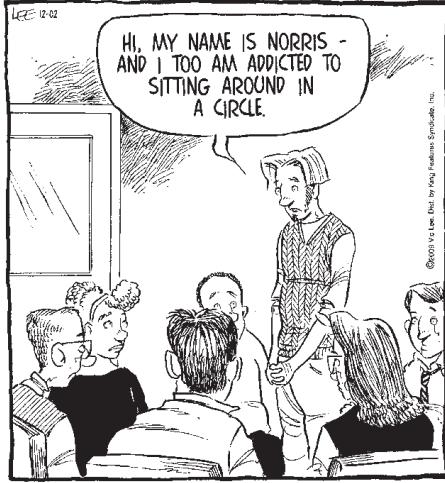
## Pearls Before Swine



## B.C.



## Pardon My Planet Over The Hedge



## Non Sequitur



## Strange Brew



# JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**PIRAD**



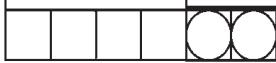
**YUNNF**



**BEMMER**



**BUESAD**

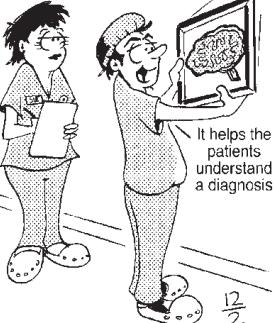


Ans: " **DRAPERS** " OF **SWEDERS**

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

NEW BIBLE Jumble Books Go To: <http://www.lyndale.com/jumble/>



WHEN THE SURGEON HUNG THE BRAIN ILLUSTRATION ON THE WALL, IT BECAME A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

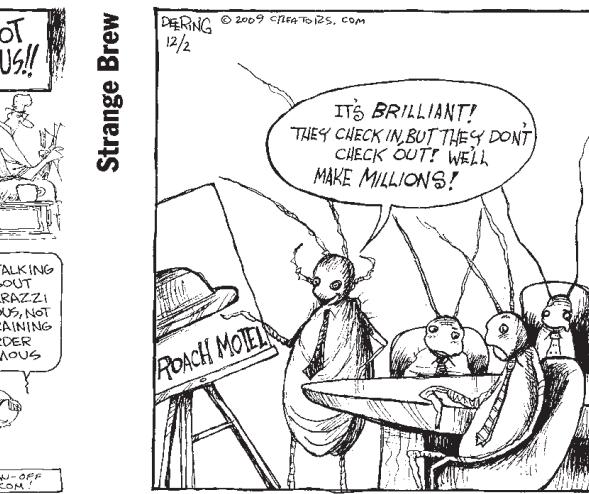
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: BURST COWER NOZZLE FEDORA

Answer: What the boy said when he flew his kite on a windy day — IT WAS A "BREEZE"

## Speed Bump



## AFN Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on AFN's Web site at [www.myafn.net](http://www.myafn.net)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009

	AFN/prime Atlantic	AFN/family	AFN/movie	AFN/news	AFN/prime Pacific	PENTAGON	AFN/spectrum	AFN/sports	AFN/xtra
15:00	NBC Nightly News	Funniest Home Videos	(2:50) Movie "Twister"	Your World With Neil Cavuto	Days of our Lives	AFN Europe Report	Design Remix	SportsCenter	Sports
15:30	World News-Gibson	Planet's Funniest Animals	(1996) Helen Hunt. Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.			EXchange on Air	Curb Appeal		
16:00	Sesame Street	(3:50) Pokémon		The Rachel Maddow Show	Oprah Winfrey	Fit For Duty	MythBusters "Alcohol Myths"	SportsCenter	
16:30		(40) Zatch Bell				Battleground			
17:00	The View	The Fairly OddParents	Movie Mob	Around the Services	Wheel of Fortune	Today's Air Force	King of the Hill		Sports
17:30		Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	At the Movies	Tavis Smiley	Jeopardy!	Recon	That '70s Show		
18:00	Dr. Phil	SpongeBob SquarePants	Hollywood Dailies	Nightly Business Report	World News-Gibson	Around the Services	Daily Show- Jon Stewart		
18:30		Hannah Montana	Entertainment Tonight	Nightline		Downrange	The Colbert Report		
19:00	The Dr. Oz Show	True Jackson, VP	Movie "Lord of War"	The O'Reilly Factor	NUMB3RS "First Law"	Week-Pentagon	Shark Tank		
19:30		Naturally, Sadie	(2005) Nicolas Cage, Jared Leto. A relentless Interpol agent tracks an arms dealer.	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		FNG Useful benefits.			
20:00	Access Hollywood	Kyle XY "Diving In"			The Game	Briefing Encore	Lie to Me "Pilot"		
20:30	The King of Queens				'Til Death	Fit For Duty			
21:00	The Young and the Restless	Beverly Hills, 90210 "Labs of Love"	(15) Movie "Absolute Zero"	Today	The Jay Leno Show	Battleground	Castle "Hedge Fund Homeboys"		
21:30			(2005, Science Fiction) Jeff Fahey, Erika Eleniak, Jessica Almele.			Recon Revisited			
22:00	General Hospital	Degrassi: TNG				Pacific Report	Around the Services	Seinfeld "The Shoes"	
22:30		Strange Days				The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	Pacific Report	Friends	
23:00	Days of our Lives	7th Heaven "It's Not Always About You"	(10:55) Movie "Friday"	America's Newsroom		Briefing Encore	Daily Show- Jon Stewart		
23:30			(1995) Ice Cube, Chris Tucker.			Late Show-Letterman	USA Today This Week	The Colbert Report	

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009

00:00	Oprah Winfrey	True Jackson, VP	(10:55) MovieFriday (1995)	Newsroom	Late Show-Letterman	The Grill Sergeants	Late Night With Jimmy Fallon	(11:00) Sports	MTV Hits Playlist
00:30		Naturally, Sadie	Social status.		The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Downrange			
1:00	Wheel of Fortune	Kyle XY The Trager children	(40) Movie "Rain Man" (1988, Comedy-Drama) Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise, Valeria Golino. The Oscar-winning study of an autistic man and his brother.		Judge Judy	This Week in the Pentagon	Top Chef "Rabbit Food"		X Play
1:30	Jeopardy!					Fit For Duty	Weight-loss camp.		Yo Momma
2:00	Headline News	Beverly Hills, 90210 "Labs of Love"		Happening Now	House "The Softer Side"	Recon	Supernatural "Shadow"		The Simpsons
2:30	ATS/AFN Report					Around the Services			Family Guy "PTV"
3:00	NUMB3RS	Investigating the death of an innovative scientist.	Degrassi: Next Generation	Newsroom	Oprah Winfrey	Downrange	Close to Home "The Rapist Next Door"		WWE Monday Night RAW
3:30			Strange Days-Blake Holsey		MSNBC Live	Today's Air Force			With Michael Cole and Jerry Lawler.
4:00	The Game	7th Heaven "It's Not Always About You"	(0:5) Movie "Lord of War" (2005, Drama) Nicolas Cage, Jared Leto, Bridget Moynahan. A relentless Interpol agent tracks an arms dealer.		MSNBC Live	Dr. Phil	Recon Revisited		The Salt 'N Pepa Show
4:30	'Til Death					State Dept Briefing	Seinfeld "The Shoes"		
5:00	The Jay Leno Show	Teletubbies		Studio B With Shepard Smith	Final Score	Battleground	Namaste Yoga		
5:30		Rolie Polie Olie			Headline News	Around the Services	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad	College Football Live	
6:00	Headline News	Sesame Street			Good Morning America	Army Newswatch	Giada at Home Spa day.	Sports	SportsNation Hosts Colin Cowherd and Michelle Beadle.
6:30	The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	Bear in the Big Blue House	Movie Mob			This Week in the Pentagon	Cooking-Sandra Lee	Jim Rome Is Burning	
7:00		Raggs	At the Movies	Glenn Beck	Good Morning America	Downrange	El News Entertainment news.	Around the Horn	Attack of the Show!
7:30	Late Show With David Letterman	Dora the Explorer	Hollywood Dailies			Around the Services	The Daily 10	Pardon the Interruption	
8:00									MTV Hits Playlist
8:30	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Entertainment Tonight		Sesame Street	Briefing Encore	ER Gates is stuck in a complicated living situation.		
9:00		The Backyardigans	Movie "Jesse Stone: Thin Ice" (2009, Crime Drama) Tom Selleck, Kathy Baker.			FNG Useful benefits.			
9:30	Judge Judy	Curious George			The View	Fit For Duty	Desperate Housewives Susan's daughter comes to visit.		
10:00	House "The Softer Side"	Peep and Big Wide Super Why!	(40) Movie "The Four Feathers" (2002, Adventure) Heath Ledger, Wes Bentley, Kate Hudson. A former soldier tries to help his old regiment in Africa.			Around the Services			
10:30				Dr. Phil	Recon Revisited	Grey's Anatomy "Life During Wartime"			
11:00	Oprah Winfrey	Curious George			Hannity	The Dr. Oz Show	Fit For Duty		
11:30		The Backyardigans					Judge Judy		
12:00	Dr. Phil	Ni Hao, Kai-lan					AFN Europe Report	Judge Alex	
12:30		Dora the Explorer			Anderson Cooper 360	Access Hollywood	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Alter Boys"		
13:00	CBS Evening News	Raggs				The Young and the Restless			Sports
13:30	ESPNNEWS	Bear in the Big Blue House				Battleground	Feasting on Asphalt Mississippi River.		
14:00	The FOX Report With Shepard Smith	Sesame Street			Campbell Brown	General Hospital	Around the Services		
14:30						Briefing Encore	Emeril Live		
15:00	NBC Nightly News	Funniest Home Videos	(2:55) Movie "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) William Shatner, The Enterprise crew encounter sabotage.			Downrange			
15:30	World News-Gibson	Planet's Funniest Animals		Days of our Lives					
16:00	Sesame Street	(3:50) Pokémon		AFN Europe Report					
16:30		(40) Zatch Bell		Recon					
17:00	The View								
17:30									
18:00	Dr. Phil	SpongeBob SquarePants	Hollywood Dailies						
18:30		Hannah Montana	Entertainment Tonight						
19:00	The Dr. Oz Show	Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town	Movie "Little Miss Sunshine" (2006) Greg Kinnear, Steve Carell. Members of a dysfunctional family take a road trip.						
19:30				The O'Reilly Factor	American Dad "Family Affair"	Ft. Hood on Track	Homeland Security USA		
20:00	Access Hollywood	Movie "Snow Buddies" (2008, Comedy) Dominic Scott Kay. Talking puppies compete in a dog-sled race across Alaska.				Family Guy "FOX-y Lady"	Today's Air Force		
20:30	The King of Queens					Hawthorne "The Sense of Belonging"	Southern Belles: Louisville "Engagements and Break-Ups"		
21:00	The Young and the Restless					Fit For Duty			
21:30				Today	The Jay Leno Show	Battleground	The Mentalist "Red Tide"		
22:00	General Hospital	Degrassi: Next Generation				Air Force Football			
22:30		Strange Days-Blake Holsey							
23:00	Days of our Lives	7th Heaven "Smoking"	(0:5) Movie "Basic" (2003) John Travolta, Connie Nielsen.						
23:30				America's Newsroom					

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009

00:00	Oprah Winfrey	Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town	(11:05) Movie "Basic" (2003) John Travolta, Connie Nielsen.	Newsroom	Late Show-Letterman	Tour of Duty	Late Night With Jimmy Fallon	(11:00) Sports	MTV Hits Playlist
00:30					The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Downrange			
1:00	Wheel of Fortune	Movie "Snow Buddies" (2008, Comedy) Dominic Scott Kay. Talking puppies compete in a dog-sled race across Alaska.	(12:55) Movie "Boyz N the Hood" (1991) Drama Larry Fishburne. Three boys become men in a tough L.A. neighborhood.	MSNBC Live	EXchange on Air	Cane "The Two Alex Vegas"			X Play
1:30	Jeopardy!				Judge Judy	Fit For Duty			Yo Momma
2:00	Headline News				House A patient speaks his mind uncontrollably.	Today's Air Force			The Simpsons
2:30	ATS/AFN Report					Around the Services			Family Guy
3:00	American Dad "Family Affair"	Degrassi: Next Generation	(2:55) Movie "Little Miss Sunshine" (2006) Greg Kinnear, Steve Carell. Members of a dysfunctional family take a road trip.	Newsroom	Oprah Winfrey				The Ultimate Fighter
3:30	Family Guy "FOX-y Lady"	Strange Days-Blake Holsey				Downrange	Psych "Shawn (and Gus) of the Dead"		
4:00	Hawthorne "The Sense of Belonging"	7th Heaven "Smoking"	(4:55) Movie "You Don't Mess With the Zohan" (2008)	MSNBC Live	Dr. Phil				
4:30									
5:00	The Jay Leno Show	Teletubbies "Ned's Bicycle"		Studio B With Shepard Smith	Final Score	Battleground	Namaste Yoga		
5:30		Rolie Polie Olie				Headline News	Around the Services	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad	College Football Live

**News**

**MIDDLE EAST HEADLINES**

Alleged serial rapist barred from work at U.S. bases in

**SCOREBOARD**

Pacific scoreboard for the April 8 edition

**Sports**

**Weather**

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**STARS STRIPES**

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# STRIPES CLASSIFIED

## Crafts/Hobbies 380

Yokota, Japan - huge lot of misc. scrapbooking items I put together a large bag filled with tons and tons of really cute scrapbooking items (most of them are brand new) you name it, it's probably here...all sorts of diff. themes. not only are these great for scrapbooking your own photos, you can get creative & make your own gifts for the holidays (cards, posters, picture frames, hand-cut quotes, projects w/ your kids, etc. etc.) so many themes! Plus, I am also including a few scrapbooks as well in this set. Everything whole bag \$60 (excl. shipping). There are lots of great craft items in here; including 1 stamp item to must go now. Please call 916-473-4488

## Furniture 510

Yokota, Japan - 2 nights stands & an armoire for sale night stands \$20.00 each - 3 drawers and secret compartment for valuables. asking \$40.00 - 3 drawers & the top. Top large enough to hold a 24 inch television or can be used as extra storage/closet space. Asking \$20-\$45/ OBO Please email jaackson@gmail.af.mil for photos or call 404-478-4630

Yokota, Japan - 2 piece 7-drawers Vanity with a mirror. Dimensions: 52.5 inches Wide 72.5 inches High 21.5 inches Deep Asking \$50 please email russell.g.zimmer@saic.com or call 0428-74-7350

Yokota, Japan - Awesome Large Solid Oak Chest Outstanding Oak "Treasure Chest" 4'W x 21'H and 20" Deep. It is in mint condition and we use for blankets storage only. Paid \$400 asking \$225. Thanks for looking! Please e-mail a message to tickman70@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Clothes rack - collapsible, chrome. Was used to hang dry clothes when off base, but could also be used to expand your closet for more clothes! Available at 3 ft in length, but can be expanded to 4ft. Asking \$40 Please email drewbarbetti@gmail.com or call 080-3515-2218

Yokota, Japan - Couch wanted: a beige/cream/light colored couch in good condition or possibly a couch and loveseat/ sofa chair depending on size. Moving in next week and we need one ASAP! Can set up my own pick-up and delivery. Please email roger.that32@hotmail.com or call 090-9957-8226

Yokota, Japan - Four Drawer Filing Cabinet Tower style aluminum filing cabinet. Four legal-sized drawers Closes securely with thumb-locks, but does not have key locks. Off-white/cream color, any offer considered. Please email heath.ife@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Mission Style Entertainment Center, in good condition must to see to appreciate. You can fit TV up to 42"19inch TV included with this offer. Asking \$100 Please call 214-6644

Yokota, Japan - Sleeper sofa for sale: We are trying to clear out our back room so we are selling our sleeper sofa. Asking \$80. Please e-mail a message to yokotaads123@gmail.com

## Furniture 510

Yokota, Japan - IKEA Morrum single bed with shelves and storage. Great for children or guests. White color has two very big cabinets on your side shelves. lot of space. Easy to assemble with original instructions bought in August, used for a little while and now don't need it. Like new condition and I can deliver if needed new \$450 asking \$300 delivered \$250 you pick up. Please call anytime 080.6673.1820. Please email justin.barbettini@gmail.com or call 080-6673-1820

Yokota, Japan - Really nice Table w/ 4 chairs & storage we have taken excellent care of our table. We even had a custom made glass top to put on top to protect wood. (Having this glass top over the wood makes it easy to clean, protect your table cloth etc.) If you have kids, get creative by having them make their own artwork, put under glass, & they know that's their seat). This table is round, stands tall, storage at base unit, 4 chairs have neutral cushions to match any decor. Plus, I am including a set of solid tan color placemats. Paid over \$800 asking \$400 (you must provide your own delivery.) Must go now please call 916-473-4488

Yokota, Japan - Really nice Table w/ 4 chairs & storage we have taken excellent care of our table. We even had a custom made glass top to put on top to protect wood. (Having this glass top over the wood makes it easy to clean, protect your table cloth etc.) If you have kids, get creative by having them make their own artwork, put under glass, & they know that's their seat). This table is round, stands tall, storage at base unit, 4 chairs have neutral cushions to match any decor. Plus, I am including a set of solid tan color placemats. Paid over \$800 asking \$400 (you must provide your own delivery.) Must go now please call 916-473-4488

Yokota, Japan - 2 Xbox 360 consoles both do not have Red however one has a bad DVD drive. I have a brand new Red DVD drive, but I need to transfer the key from the old one to the new drive for it to work. The other one just won't accept updates. I called Microsoft and they quoted \$50 to repair but they are both non HDMI so I do not want them. Asking \$25 Please email justin.barbettini@gmail.com or call 080-6673-1820

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Yokota, Japan - Toddler bed frame. Sturdy white toddler bed. White classic plastic head/foot board with metal frame. Great for a boy or girl! Asking \$45 Call Liz @ 803-983-0671 or email riddler1213@live.com

Yokota, Japan - We have (2) 7-Drawer "Chest of Drawers. Dimensions: 45.75 inches Wide 57.75 inches High 19.5 inches Deep Asking \$100 each please e-mail a message to s.s.e.s.e.i.g.zimmer@saic.com or call 0428-74-7350

Yokota, Japan - Four piece leather sectional sofa, brown, \$500 OBO - Will deliver within Kanto Plain area. Call 090 3697 0187.

## Furniture/Appliances 511

Yokota, Japan - Refrigerator Daewoo, refrigerator, only bought 1 month ago, freezer, bottom frige needed a bigger one, and don't have room for both. Paid \$370 one month ago, asking \$300 now. Asking \$300. Please email theresa.rob@hotmail.com or call 704292941

Yokota, Japan - JVC 63" Projection TV 4 Good Condition. Never took off protective cover for screen. Make me an offer E-mail offer to sumisu27@yahoo.com willing to deliver. Thanks

Yokota, Japan - Sony 36inch flat screen TV must go! TV is stand in good condition! Asking \$300 OBO E-mail to sumisu27@yahoo.com

## Furniture/Appliances 511

Yokota, Japan - Steam Extreme 3000 (Steam Cleaner) What's included with the Steam Extreme 3000 base unit o Funnel Measuring cup o Steam gun and hose o Accessory adapter o Detail adapter o Jet nozzle o Floor attachment o Flange adapter o metal brush o nylon brush o 2 in 1 attachment (window cleaner) o 1 small cotton cover (for 2 in 1 attachment) o 1 large cotton cover (for floor attachment) o 3 extension tubes o Professional steam iron with hose and stand (Brand New) o Open box (Never Used) - Costs \$230 plus shipping Asking \$150 Please e-mail a message to r.u.s.s.e.i.g.zimmer@saic.com or call 0428-74-7350

## Home Electronics 570

Sasebo - Selling Guitar Hero World Tour. Wii full band kit/Rock Band. Full wii band kit. Great Christmas presents! I simply got too good for the game and became bored with it. Will sell separately or together. Instruments in great condition. Condition: 10/10. Asking \$100. Please email justin.stethem@me.com or call 252-7296. Asking \$200 together OBO separate.

Yokota, Japan - 2 Xbox 360 consoles both do not have Red however one has a bad DVD drive. I have a brand new Red DVD drive, but I need to transfer the key from the old one to the new drive for it to work. The other one just won't accept updates. I called Microsoft and they quoted \$50 to repair but they are both non HDMI so I do not want them. Asking \$25 Please email justin.barbettini@gmail.com or call 080-6673-1820

Yokota, Japan - PSP-3000 with Game, I have a PSP-3000 like condition for sell with FF Dissidia (no case) FF-II FFVII: Advent Children Tekken: Dark resurrection (not original case) Soul Caliber: broken Destiny Mega man: powered up Ape Escape: on the loose (not original case) 2 GB memory stick Asking \$180 Please email justin.stethem@me.com or call 0903403738

Yokota, Japan - XBOX 360 w/ controllers & games XBOX 360 20GB model w/ 2 controllers, still in good condition. Never had any problems. Asking \$100. Please email justin.stethem@me.com or call 0903403738

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Yokota, Japan - 32 inch Sharp Aquos LCD HDTV - 720p The TV is currently broken. It has a great picture, but loses power to the screen. I took it to the electronics repair shop and they said it will cost around \$200-\$300 to fix. I already replaced the TV, so I didn't want to pay this much in case I couldn't find a buyer. So I decided to find a buyer first. Give me whatever you can offer and you can take the TV for the repair. Color: piano black. Asking \$50. Please email drewbarbetti@gmail.com or call 080-3515-2218

Yokota, Japan - 50 inch Sony plasma, FULL PRICE \$750 The WDP-50P2X is a 50-inch High Definition Professional. It has a wide display and provides a versatile platform including analog and digital inputs for both video and PC devices. Just had it looked over and cleaned inside an out. Was \$1500 NOW \$750. Asking \$400. Please email drewbarbetti@gmail.com or call 0428-74-7350

Zama - For Sale - Four piece leather sectional sofa, brown, \$500 OBO - Will deliver within Kanto Plain area. Call 090 3697 0187.

## Home Electronics 570

Yokota, Japan - DVD - Player (JVC HDMI XV-N670B) (Brand New - Sealed in Box - Never Opened) High Definition Multimedia Interface with Up/Down/Left/Right Multi Function Player, DVD/Video, DVD-R (Video Format), DVD-RW, DVD+R, DVD+RW, MP3, VCD, CD-R/RW, MP3, WMA, Div X, JPEG, Video & Audio Features: 14-Bit/108MHz Video/D/A Converter, Do by yourself & DTS Surround, Dolby Digital, S-Video, Coaxial/Optical Audio Asking \$55 Please email russell.g.zimmer@saic.com or call 0428-74-7350

Yokota, Japan - For sale Panasonic 42" Plasma TV Panasonic TH42P50U \$550 OBO available 1 Dec. Display 1080i, 50/60 Hz check the cnet review at: [http://reviews.cnet.com/flat-panel-tvs/panasonic-th42p50u/4505-6482\\_7-3125126.html?tag=ra-mv](http://reviews.cnet.com/flat-panel-tvs/panasonic-th42p50u/4505-6482_7-3125126.html?tag=ra-mv). Contact me at jzeljee@ezweb.ne.jp

Yokota, Japan - PS2 - Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3 Skate all over the world, from a trailer park to Los Angeles, or even more exotic locales like Tokyo. Asking \$10 Please email justin.stethem@me.com or call 0903403738

Yokota, Japan - XBOX 360 w/ controllers & games XBOX 360 20GB model w/ 2 controllers, still in good condition. Never had any problems. Asking \$100. Please email justin.stethem@me.com or call 0903403738

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Yokota, Japan - Selling a Sony 55" Grand Wega 3LCD Rear Projection Television has 2 HDMI & 3 Component Inputs, Digital Reality Creation Multi Function 4 Function, Technology 4 Function (STV), 400P (EDT), 720p, 1080i Resolution. Also throwing in a matching Sony 5.1 Home Theater System 1000watts of power, 5 disk DVD changer, comes with remote, manual and speaker stands that was purchased separately, did not come with the system. Asking price for the TV is \$1200. Asking price for the Home Theater System is about \$220 both together \$1520 but you can purchase it from me. All for a low price of \$1200.00. No damages, well taken care of. If you are interested or have any question pls. call 241-2392 for Dawn Tucker 267-6037

Camp Zama - Let our accident bring love and warmth to your home. Litter of 14 puppies we have 4 puppies left looking for homes. For more info Contact Dawn Tucker 267-6037

Negishi - Free to good home 1 yr old Golden Retriever. Contact helioperator@yahoo.com or 264-7670

Atsugi - Free to good home 1 yr old Golden Retriever. Contact helioperator@yahoo.com or 264-7670

Zama/SHA - A white 9 month old male Shizuka poodle mix needs a FOREVER home. He is

Yokota, Japan - - Very good with kids. Very lovable and playful not hyper. Our boys are just not ready to be dedicated to the daily training not on-base. We are not in for the profit. If we were the pups would be sold for more. We want to make sure they go to loving homes. Asking 30,000 yen please email jerryram@gmail.com or call 090-6630-5530

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# It's official: Weis out

## Irish fire coach after promising season turns sour

By TOM COYNE  
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame fired coach Charlie Weis on Monday after a string of disappointing seasons that was capped by an agonizing four-game losing streak.

Athletic director Jack Swarbrick announced the decision, saying in a news release: "We have great expectations for our football program, and we have not been able to meet those expectations."

Swarbrick said he recommended to university president the Rev. John Jenkins on Sunday night that Weis be let go with six years left on his contract. Weis leaves his alma mater with a 35-27 record in five seasons, among the worst of any Irish coach.

Assistant head coach Rob Ianello will step in for Weis until a new coach is hired.

After winning six of eight games this season, the losing streak began with the second upset loss to Navy in three years. Then came losses to Pittsburgh and Connecticut, the latter in double overtime. When Stanford beat

Notre Dame 45-38 in the season finale, it seemed inevitable Weis would be gone.

Speculation about possible replacements for Weis has been rampant for weeks. Among the top names, Florida's Urban Meyer and Oklahoma's Bob Stoops already have said they plan to stay where they are.

Speaking during a conference call Monday, Stoops said: "I'm going to be at Oklahoma next year, so I can't be at two places at once."

Cincinnati's Brian Kelly has also been mentioned, along with Stanford's Jim Harbaugh and TCU's Gary Patterson.

A brash offensive coordinator with the NFL champion New England Patriots when he was hired, Weis raised Irish expectations with appearances in BCS bowl games in each of his first two seasons.

Since then, though, one of the nation's storied football programs has gone 16-21, the most losses ever by the Irish over a three-year span.

Weis' record is worse than that of his two predecessors, Tyrone Willingham and Bob Davie, who

also were fired. Notre Dame will be looking for its fifth coach this decade.

Weis has six years left on a 10-year contract signed midway through his first season, just after a thriller against top-ranked USC that ended in a 34-31 loss.

The way that game played out served as a model for the Weis era. Clinging to a 31-28 lead with less than 2 minutes to play, Notre Dame allowed the Trojans to convert on a fourth-and-9 from their 26. That ultimately set up a quarterback sneak by Matt Leinhart in the waning seconds for the winning score.

What made Weis' fall worse for fans was that it began with so much promise. He came to Notre Dame brimming with confidence after serving as offensive coordinator for three-time Super Bowl champion New England.

The first two seasons under Weis produced more victories (19) than any other Notre Dame coach, including Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy and Ara Parseghian. Both seasons, though, ended with BCS bowl losses.

"I really haven't done anything yet," Weis said after his second



JOE RAYMOND/AP

Notre Dame fired football coach Charlie Weis after five seasons.

season, little knowing that he had already reached the high point of his tenure.

With Brady Quinn, Jeff Samardzija and other key players gone in 2007, the Irish went 0-5 for the first time in school history and finished 3-9, leaving Weis one loss shy of matching Davie's school record of 16 losses in his first three seasons.

Most shocking, though, was the fact the Irish finished last in the NCAA in total offense just three years after Weis said during his introductory news conference that when it comes to X's and O's "we have the greatest advantage."

The past two seasons the Irish have collapsed in November. They

were 5-2 in 2008 before going 1-4 down the stretch. This time they ended the season with four tough losses.

Notre Dame fans who celebrated Weis' cockiness when he was winning grew tired of his Jersey attitude when the Irish started losing, with many calling him arrogant. His biggest failure, however, was his team's inability to play good defense. The Irish never finished higher than 39th in the country in defense and gave up big play after big play.

Weis appeared to know his firing was imminent, saying a day after the loss to Connecticut on Nov. 21 that he would have a hard time arguing against his firing.

## Sports briefs

### Danica Patrick staying with Andretti Indy-car team

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Danica Patrick signed a three-year extension with Andretti Autosport on Monday, a deal reportedly in the works for weeks.

Patrick and Andretti Autosport owner Michael Andretti announced the deal Monday and unveiled her green, black and orange car at New York's Times Square during a segment of "Good Morning America."

The contract extension apparently had been held up by a previous sponsorship deal of Patrick's and a restructuring of Andretti Autosport, which last week changed its name from Andretti Green Racing when Andretti became sole owner.

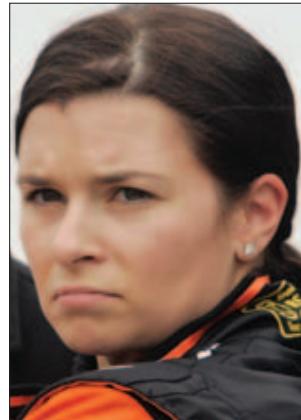
Patrick became the first woman to win an IndyCar Series race when she captured the 2008 Japan Indy 300. She also was the first woman to lead the Indianapolis 500 (2005) and finished third at Indy last May.

Patrick's new deal runs through 2012.

#### Bowden: Announcement on future coming Tuesday

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Bobby Bowden said Monday there would be an announcement Tuesday on his coaching future at Florida State. Bowden, 80, met with Florida State President T.K. Wetherell and athletic director Randy Sperman for an hour on Monday.

"We talked about my future



TOM STRATTMAN/AP

**Danica Patrick, the only woman to win an Indy-car race, has signed a three-year extension with the Andretti team.**

here at Florida State," Bowden said during a booster luncheon. He didn't elaborate.

Bowden had said Sunday that he wanted to return in 2010 for his 35th season at Florida State.

In other football news:

■ Given a second chance because of a penalty, Damon Duval kicked a 33-yard field goal with no time left to give the Montreal Alouettes a 28-27 victory over the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the Grey Cup final on Sunday night.

Duval missed moments earlier from 43 yards, but the Roughriders

were penalized for having 13 men on the field.

#### Nets fire Frank hours before 17th straight loss

LOS ANGELES — The winless New Jersey Nets fired coach Lawrence Frank on Sunday, several hours before they matched the worst record in NBA history with their 17th straight loss.

Assistant Tom Barrise temporarily replaced Frank, but the Nets remained 0-for-the-season with a 106-87 loss to the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers.

Frank's 225 victories are the most in franchise history, and he had a career .500 record before this disastrous, injury-plagued season. He also was the longest-tenured coach in the Eastern Conference, but his steady work couldn't repair a trade-depleted roster featuring eight players who already have missed multiple games with injuries.

Frank, from Teaneck, N.J., replaced Byron Scott in January 2004 and began his career with a 13-game winning streak, the best coaching start in league history. Frank led the Nets to the playoffs in four straight seasons from 2004-07, but New Jersey missed the playoffs the past two seasons, finishing each with a 34-48 record.

#### WADA OKs passport program

LONDON — After years of discussion and development, the World Anti-Doping Agency said

Monday it would begin a global program to monitor athletes' blood profiles for evidence of cheating.

Meeting in Stockholm this week to mark its 10th anniversary, WADA was expected to ratify the biological passport system under consideration since 2002.

The project involves collecting and storing athletes' blood samples and monitoring them over time for any variations that could indicate doping — without an actual positive test.

WADA has completed the protocols for a program it hopes can be adopted by federations and countries around the world. The passport system will be up for approval Wednesday by WADA's foundation board.

#### Churchill Downs to stage three-day music festival

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby, will host such music stars including Bon Jovi and Kenny Chesney during a three-day festival that officials hope can boost the track's income.

The track announced Monday that the festival will feature some 65 bands playing everything from classic rock to country to bluegrass.

Officials with Churchill Downs Inc., the race track's parent company, said the "Hullabaloo" festival would be staged July 23-25. Five stages will be set up throughout the sprawling 147-

acre facility. If it's successful, it could become an annual event.

The Rolling Stones and other huge rock 'n' roll acts have played at the track in recent years to augment its income from horse racing.

#### Ex-NBA star Walker promises to repay Vegas casino debt

LAS VEGAS — Former NBA all-star Antoine Walker promising on Monday to pay more than \$900,000 to settle bad check charges with three Las Vegas casinos and avoid felony criminal charges.

Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Melanie Andress-Tobiasson approved a deal Monday letting Walker pay almost \$13,000 a month over five years.

#### Williams fined \$82,500 for U.S. Open tirade

NEW YORK — Serena Williams was fined a record \$82,500 on Monday for her U.S. Open tirade and could be suspended from that tournament if she has another "major offense" during any Grand Slam in the next two years.

Grand Slam administrator Bill Babcock's ruling was released Monday. He said Williams faces a "probationary period" during tennis' four major championships in 2010 and 2011. If she has another "major offense" during that time, the fine would increase to \$175,000 and she would be barred from the following U.S. Open.



# SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AFN

### Tuesday

**AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.**—NBA: Philadelphia at Dallas (dld).  
**AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.**—NFL: New England at New Orleans (dld).

### Wednesday

**AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.**—NFL: New England at New Orleans (dld).

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—College basketball: Wake Forest at Purdue.

**AFN-Xtra, 10 a.m.**—NHL: Columbus at Chicago.

**AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.**—College basketball: Michigan State at North Carolina.

**AFN-Xtra, 12:30 p.m.**—NHL: Los Angeles at Anaheim.

**AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.**—College basketball: Maryland at Indiana (dld).

**AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.**—NFL: Replay: Game 1, teams TBD (dld, 90-minute cut-down).

**AFN-Sports, 11:30 p.m.**—NFL: Replay: Game 2, teams TBD (dld, 90-minute cut-down).

**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**—NBA: New Orleans at L.A. Lakers (dld).

**AFN-Sports, 9:15 a.m.**—College basketball: Illinois at Clemson.

**AFN-Xtra, 10 a.m.**—NBA: Philadelphia at Oklahoma City.

**AFN-Sports, 11:15 a.m.**—College basketball: Duke at Wisconsin.

**AFN-Xtra, 12:30 p.m.**—NBA: Houston at L.A. Clippers.

**AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.**—College basketball: Boston College at Michigan (dld).

**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.**—College basketball: Florida State at Ohio State (dld).

**AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.**—NFL: Replay: Game 3, teams TBD (dld, 90-minute cut-down).

**AFN-Sports, 11:30 p.m.**—NFL: Replay: Game 4, teams TBD (dld, 90-minute cut-down).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard; (dld) indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.myafn.net](http://www.myafn.net) for more information.

## High school

### Japan

#### Girls basketball

##### Saturday

M.C. Perry 40, Hiroshima International

12

##### Friday

M.C. Perry 37, Kyoto International University Academy 20

## Boxing

### Fight schedule

#### Dec. 2

At Acer Arena, Sydney, Australia, Danny Green vs. Roy Jones Jr., 12, for Green's IBO world cruiserweight title.

At Philadelphia, Bernard Hopkins vs. Enrique Ornelas, 12, light heavyweights; Danny Garcia vs. Enrique Colín, 10, junior welterweights.

#### Dec. 3

At New York, Mike Arnaoutis vs. Tim Coleman, 12, junior welterweights.

#### Dec. 4

At Agde, France, Anselmo Moreno vs. Frederic Patrac, 12, for Moreno's WBA bantamweight title.

At Santa Ynez, Calif., Tyrone Brunson vs. Carson Jones, 10, junior middleweights.

## Deals

### Sunday's transactions

#### BASKETBALL

##### National Basketball Association

NBA—Fined Boston F Rasheed Wallace \$30,000 for public criticism of the officials following the Nov. 27 games against Toronto. Fined Phoenix F Amar'e Stoudemire, Charlotte C Tyson Chandler and Boston F Rasheed Wallace \$7,500 apiece for the posting of messages on their Twitter accounts during games.

**NEW JERSEY NETS**—Fired coach Lawrence Frank.

#### HOCKEY

##### National Hockey League

NHL—Suspended Pittsburgh F Matt Cooke for two games for a deliberate check to the head area of New York Rangers F Artem Anisimov in a Nov. 28 game.

**ATLANTA THRASHERS**—Recalled D Boris Valabik from Chicago (AHL).

**MINNESOTA WILD**—Reassigned LW Robbie Earl, D Jaime Sifers to Houston (AHL).

**MONTRÉAL CANADIENS**—Assigned F J.T. Wyman to Hamilton (AHL).

#### COLLEGE

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN**—Named Jeff Monken football coach.

**MARSHALL**—Announced the resignation of football coach Mark Snyder.

**MEMPHIS**—Named Larry Porter football coach.

**VALPARAISO**—Announced the resignation of football coach Stacy Adams.

**VIRGINIA**—Fired football coach Al Groh.

## College basketball

### Sunday's men's scores

#### EAST

Bentley 83, S. New Hampshire 71  
 Cornell 61, Drexel 54  
 Duquesne 71, Radford 63  
 Harvard 78, Boston U. 70  
 Indiana, Pa. 80, Holy Family 74  
 Kean 73, Curry 70  
 NYU 66, Old Westbury 59  
 Randolph-Macon 87, DeSales 63  
 Rochester 75, Scranton 61  
 St. Rose 91, Pace 89, OT  
 Ursinus 82, Lebanon Valley 56  
 West Chester 74, Dist. of Columbia 61

#### SOUTH

ETSU 82, North Florida 56  
 Florida Southern 80, Armstrong Atlantic 70  
 Georgia Southern 80, Troy 77  
 Hampden-Sydney 79, Shenandoah 71  
 Hampton 59, Monmouth, N.J. 56  
 Kent St. 63, Morehead St. 57  
 Mississippi 73, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 58  
 N.C. State 69, New Orleans 52  
 North Carolina 80, Nevada 73  
 Savannah St. 68, Virginia-Wise 57  
 The Citadel 67, Conn. Connect. St. 53  
 Thomas More 82, Oglethorpe 56  
 UNCG 86, Elon 56

#### MIDWEST

Akron 80, Niagara 68  
 Ashland 91, Urbana 85  
 Carthage 72, Wisc. Lutheran 59  
 Hamline 107, Buena Vista 84  
 Hanover 80, MacMurray 65  
 Haverford 61, Moravian 60  
 Illinois St. 80, St. Bonaventure 77  
 Marian, Ind. 75, Northland 67  
 Minn. St., Mankato 81, Winona St. 74  
 Northern St., S.D. 62, Minn.-Crookston 58  
 Ripon 78, Simpson, Iowa 72  
 Rose-Hulman 72, Blackburn 63  
 SE Missouri 75, Norfolk St. 54  
 South Dakota 104, Midland Lutheran 71  
 Valparaiso 86, Ark.-Fort Smith 74  
 Vermont 82, Toledo 49  
 Wis.-Green Bay 67, North Dakota 41  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Gustavus 69  
 Wis.-Platteville 68, Pacific Lutheran 61  
 Wis.-Stout 87, Mount Mercy 84, OT

#### SOUTHWEST

Indiana St. 77, Arkansas St. 72  
 South Alabama 74, Arkansas 61  
 Texas 77, Rice 59

#### FAR WEST

Cal Poly 89, CSU Bakersfield 80  
 ETSU 94, Hawaii 83, OT  
 Oregon 87, Portland St. 58  
 Pepperdine 64, Purdue 59  
 Sacramento St. 74, Washington 71  
 Seattle 68, Wisc.-Milwaukee 63  
 Stanford 103, Gonzaga 74  
 UC Santa Barbara 75, San Diego 65  
 Utah 59, Santa Clara 54  
 Wisconsin 57, Cal St.-Fullerton 44

#### TOURNAMENTS

Buckeye Classic  
 Championship  
 76 Classic  
 Championship  
 West Virginia 84, Portland 66

#### Third Place

Texas A&M 66, Minnesota 65

#### Fifth Place

Clemson 70, Butler 69

#### Seventh Place

Long Beach St. 79, UCLA 68

Community vs. Cancer Challenge

Championship

DePauw 65, Wabash 57

College hockey

### Saturday's scores

#### EAST

Boston U. 3, Cornell 3, OT  
 Army 7, Canisius 2  
 Brown 8, Connecticut 1  
 Quinnipiac 5, Massachusetts 4, OT  
 Mercyhurst 2, American International 0  
 New Hampshire 5, Merrimack 4  
 Maine 10, St. Lawrence 1  
 Yale 7, Holy Cross 3

#### MIDWEST

Bowling Green 4, Notre Dame 4, OT  
 Minn. St., Mankato 3, Michigan Tech 2  
 Nebraska-Omaha 4, W. Michigan 2

#### FAR WEST

Alaska-Anchorage 3, Colorado Coll. 2, OT  
 Alaska 5, N. Michigan 4, SO  
 St. Cloud St. 3, Denver 2

TOURNAMENTS

College Hockey Showcase

Minnesota 2, Michigan St. 1

Michigan 3, Wisconsin 2

Rensselaer Holiday Tournament

Championship

Union, N.Y. 5, RPI 4, OT

#### Third Place

Bentley 2, Lake Superior St. 2, OT

Subway Holiday Classic

Miami (Ohio) 5, North Dakota 5, OT

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#### Third Place

# BCS standings same after contenders stay unbeaten

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After a weekend when all the national championship contenders stayed undefeated, the BCS standings were unchanged.

Florida was first, Alabama second and Texas third Sunday.

Florida will play Alabama in the Southeastern Conference championship Saturday for one spot in the BCS national title game. Texas can earn the other spot with a victory over Nebraska in the Big 12 title game.

The BCS bids go out Sunday, Dec. 6.

Hoping for a Texas loss are fourth-place TCU, which finished its regular season 12-0, and fifth-place Cincinnati (12-0), which can boost its ranking by beating Pittsburgh for the Big East championship.

Sixth-place Boise State (12-0) will be rooting for Texas. The Broncos play New Mexico State and likely need the Longhorns to beat Nebraska to ensure themselves an at-large BCS berth.

Florida had an easy time running its record to 12-0, beating archrival Florida State 37-10 on Saturday.

Earlier in the week, Alabama and Texas had to struggle to get to 12-0. The Crimson Tide rallied late to beat Auburn 26-21 and the Longhorns won a wild 49-39 decision over Texas A&M.

Now all three are a victory away from a date in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 7 with the national championship on the line.

It's practically a repeat of last season's championship weekend, when Florida and Alabama played what amounted to a national semifinal in Atlanta and Oklahoma needed to win the Big

## BCS standings

Games through Nov. 28

RANK	TEAM	BCS AVE.	HARRIS INTERACTIVE	USA TODAY	COMPUTER RANKING
1.	Florida	0.9868	1	1	1
2.	Alabama	0.9513	3	3	1
3.	Texas	0.9282	2	2	4
4.	TCU	0.8689	4	4	5
5.	Cincinnati	0.8547	5	5	3
6.	Boise State	0.8096	6	6	6
7.	Oregon	0.7343	8	8	7
8.	Ohio State	0.6882	7	7	11
9.	Iowa	0.6028	10	10	10
10.	Georgia Tech	0.5803	11	12	8
11.	Penn State	0.5499	9	9	19
12.	Virginia Tech	0.5376	12	11	13
13.	LSU	0.5139	14	14	9
14.	Brigham Young	0.4394	13	13	16
15.	Pittsburgh	0.4101	15	15	18
16.	Oregon State	0.4070	16	16	15
17.	Miami, Fla.	0.3843	17	17	14
18.	USC	0.3565	19	19	12
19.	California	0.2392	21	22	17
20.	Oklahoma State	0.2251	20	21	20
21.	Houston	0.2204	18	18	26
22.	Nebraska	0.1491	22	20	26
23.	West Virginia	0.1400	25	23	21
24.	Stanford	0.1198	23	24	22
25.	Utah	0.0707	24	25	28

NOTE: The BCS Average is calculated by averaging the percent totals of the Harris Interactive, USA Today Coaches and Computer polls.

SOURCE: Bowl Championship Series

AP

12 title to advance to the national championship game.

The Gators and Sooners ended up in the national championship game, with Florida winning its second title in three seasons.

If Texas loses at Cowboys Stadium to Nebraska, expect a furious debate about who should play in the national title game against the SEC champion.

TCU (.8689) and Cincinnati (.8547) are virtually tied in the standings. The Horned Frogs are ahead of the Bearcats in the two polls, but Cincinnati has a stronger computer rating.

Beating Pittsburgh could push the Bearcats past TCU and put them in position to take advantage of a Texas loss.

That is, unless the loser of the SEC championship game doesn't stay ahead of the pack and set up a rematch between Florida and Alabama in Pasadena, Calif.

There has never been a regular-season rematch in the BCS title game nor a matchup of teams in the same conference.

In 2006, Florida leaped past Michigan in the final BCS standings to prevent a rematch of Ohio State-Michigan in the title game.

## SEC: Tide's Ingram expected to play

### SEC, FROM BACK PAGE

satisfied," Saban said. "They always want to accomplish more and achieve more and they are very committed to that standard of excellence. This team is going to have an opportunity again to do something that last year's team didn't get done. ... I'm extremely proud of what we've been able to accomplish this year."

Ingram, the SEC's leading rusher, bruised a hip against the Tigers and sat out most of the game-winning drive. But Saban said he expects him to be healthy against Florida.

"I think he'll be fine," Saban said. "We don't think he has a significant problem. Those things are a little bit painful, especially when you first get them. It was late in the game when it happened and he never really had an opportunity to go back in. But we'll see more tomorrow [Monday] and how he moves around in practice."

"All these great memories, if something happened, they're not just going to go away," Tebow

said. "We're still going to have a lot of great memories from this year. Yes, that game means a lot and our goal is to win the SEC title every year, especially this year, but it's not all or nothing. We still had a pretty special season."

It certainly would be more memorable with a victory. The Gators dominated the fourth quarter against Alabama last year, scoring 14 unanswered points in a 31-20 victory that propelled them to the national title.

Florida, following Tebow's lead, opened this season talking about wanting to repeat and putting together the school's first perfect season.

Sky-high expectations followed all season. They will be there in Atlanta, too.

"The expectation level, it felt like it was on you the entire year," Meyer said. "That's where the biggest difference was. The players felt it and the coaches felt it."

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## NHL scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	27	18	9	0	36	87 75
New Jersey	24	17	6	1	35	69 51
Philadelphia	24	13	10	1	27	77 65
N.Y. Rangers	26	13	12	1	27	78 79
N.Y. Islanders	27	10	10	7	27	72 84

### Northeast Division

Boston	26	13	8	5	31	64 64
Buffalo	23	14	7	2	30	63 55
Ottawa	24	13	7	4	30	72 70
Montreal	26	12	12	2	26	66 76
Toronto	24	6	11	7	19	67 89

### Southeast Division

Washington	26	15	5	6	36	91 76
Atlanta	23	13	7	3	29	80 65
Tampa Bay	24	10	6	8	28	67 72
Florida	25	10	11	4	24	68 83
Carolina	26	5	16	5	15	60 97

### Western Conference

#### Central Division

Chicago	25	16	6	3	35	78 56
Nashville	25	15	9	1	31	62 64
Columbus	25	12	9	4	28	76 90
Detroit	25	12	9	4	28	72 72
St. Louis	24	10	9	5	25	60 62

#### Northwest Division

Calgary	25	16	6	3	35	78 66
Colorado	24	14	8	5	33	82 83
Vancouver	26	14	12	0	28	80 68
Edmonton	27	10	13	4	24	80 90
Minneapolis	25	10	12	3	23	63 75

#### Pacific Division

San Jose	28	18	6	4	40	96 75
Los Angeles	27	15	10	2	32	79 81
Phoenix	27	15	11	1	31	68 65
Dallas	26	12	7	3	31	79 77
Anaheim	25	10	11	4	24	71 80

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

#### Saturday's games

New Jersey 6, N.Y. Islanders 1

Calgary 4, Columbus 3, SO

Boston 4, Ottawa 3, SO

Washington 4, Montreal 3, SO

Atlanta 1, Philadelphia 0

Buffalo 5, Carolina 1

Pittsburgh 8, N.Y. Rangers 3

Detroit 4, St. Louis 3, SO

Nashville 4, Florida 1, SO

Dallas 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT

Minnesota 3, Colorado 2, SO

Vancouver 7, Edmonton 3

Los Angeles 2, Chicago 1, SO

Phoenix 3, Anaheim 2, OT

San Jose 4, Vancouver 2

#### Monda'y games

Buffalo at Toronto

St. Louis at Columbus

Washington at Carolina

Florida at Atlanta

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers

Dallas at Detroit

Colorado at Tampa Bay

Calgary at Nashville

#### Tuesday's games

Toronto at Montreal

Columbus at Chicago

Los Angeles at Anaheim

Ottawa at San Jose

#### Sunday

### Sharks 4, Canucks 2

San Jose	1	1	2	4
Vancouver	1	0	1	2

**First Period**—1, Vancouver, Wellwood 2 (Bernier, Edler), 1:59, 2, San Jose, McLaren 1 (Pavelski), 12:18.

**Second Period**—3, San Jose, Boyle 6 (Thornton, Huskins), 6:15 (pp).

**Third Period**—4, San Jose, Malhotra 5 (Clowe, Boedker), 17:25, 5, San Jose, McGinn 4 (Ortmeyer), 17:38, 6, Vancouver, Hansen 2 (Wellwood), 19:53.

**Shots on Goal**—San Jose 7-15-8-30.

**Power play opportunities**—San Jose 1 of 5; Vancouver 0 of 4.

**Goalies**—San Jose, Nabokov 16-4-4 (27 shots-25 saves). Vancouver, Luongo 10-9-0 (30-26). A—18,810 (18,630). T—2:18.

**Coyotes 3, Ducks 2 (OT)**

Phoenix	0	0	2	1-3
Anheim	0	1	1	0-2

**Second Period**—1, Anaheim, Getzlaf 5 (Selanne, Niedermayer), 5:12 (pp).

**Third Period**—2, Phoenix, Vandeemeer 3 (Lang, Boedker), 5:28, 3, Phoenix, Perry, Lombardi 5 (Lepisto, Upshall), 10:07, 4, Anaheim, Ryan 11 (Boydton, Perry), 18:06.

**Overtime**—5, Phoenix, Vandeemeer 4 (Lang), 1:18.

**Shots on Goal**—Phoenix 10-4-11-1-26.

**Power play opportunities**—Phoenix 0 of 4; Anaheim 1 of 3.

**Goalies**—Phoenix, Bryzgalov 14-8-1 (28 shots-26 saves). Anaheim, Giguere 3-3-3 (26-23).

A—13,023 (17,174). T—2:20.

#### Leaders

##### Through Nov. 29

GP	G	A	PTS
Joe Thornton, SJ	28	19	7
Marian Gaborik, NYR	24	19	16
Anze Kopitar, LA	27		

## College basketball roundup

# West Virginia to Portland: 'Upset string stops here'

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Da'Sean Butler was determined that West Virginia wouldn't be the next victim of unheralded Portland.

Butler matched his season high of 26 points to lead No. 8 West Virginia to the 76 Classic championship with an 84-66 victory over Portland on Sunday night. Butler, who made 10 of 16 shots and grabbed six rebounds, was voted the tournament's MVP.

"Everybody was way mentally tougher than I thought they would be," Butler said, "as far as understanding the matchups and not going, 'Oh, wow, I'm guarding the best player' or saying, 'How come I'm not getting any shots?' We came together as a team more, as opposed to being individuals just worrying about themselves."

Portland reached the tournament final by routing UCLA on Thursday night and beating No. 22 Minnesota on Friday night.

Kevin Jones added a season-best 17 points for the Mountaineers (5-0), who won their first tournament since 2001. Reserve Devin Ebanks scored 14.

"I think this game gives us a big confidence boost," Jones said. "It shows we can hang with the good teams in the country."

Nik Raivio scored 15 points for the Pilots (5-1), T.J. Campbell added 12 points and five assists and Jared Stohl and Kramer Knutson scored 11 points apiece.

"We want to go to a place where we can compete and beat teams like that," Portland coach Eric Reveno said of West Virginia. "We've got a neat team, a nice team. I want this team to be a special team."

Portland led 14-13 when West Virginia used a 15-4 surge to move ahead 28-18 with five minutes left in the first half. Jones scored six points and Butler five.

The Mountaineers outrebounded the Pilots in the first half 26-10 in building a 39-25 halftime advantage.

"We got crushed on the boards and didn't give ourselves a chance," Reveno said. "They had a ton of offensive boards in the first half."

West Virginia led in the second half by as many as 22 points. Portland got no closer than 10.

"The story of our team is versatility," West Virginia coach Bob Huggins said. "If nothing else, it shows our guys that we can win and not have to shoot well."

**No. 3 Texas 77, Rice 59:** Dexter Pittman scored 21 points as visiting Texas held off a Rice rally before pulling away.

Pittman was 7-for-8 from the field for the Longhorns (5-0). Sulaiman Braimoh scored 12 points to lead the Owls (4-2).

Texas led by 17 early in the second half, but the Owls got within 59-54 with just under 7 minutes to play. But Rice couldn't stop



JAE C. HONG/AP

**Portland's Luke Sikma, right, son of former NBA great Jack Sikma, looks to shoot as he is pressured by West Virginia's Kevin Jones during the first half of Sunday's 76 Classic championship game in Anaheim, Calif. Eight-ranked West Virginia ended Portland's string of upsets in the tourney with an 84-66 victory.**

Pittman and his 290 pounds as he dominated under the basket.

J'Covan Brown added 15 points for Texas, including two rally-killng baskets in the final minutes.

**No. 11 North Carolina 80, Nevada 73:** Deon Thompson scored 23 points as North Carolina beat pesky Nevada to give coach Roy Williams his 600th victory.

Ed Davis had 16 points, 15 rebounds and two momentum-changing blocks for the Tar Heels (6-1). Carolina endured an uncharacteristic second-half slump, warmed up down the stretch with an 11-3 spurt and hit four of seven free throws in the final minute.

Armon Johnson scored 20 points and Luke Babbitt 13 for Nevada (2-3), which ended up shooting 41 percent after missing 10 of its final 14 shots.

**No. 14 Washington 63, Montana 59:** Venoy Overton made two free throws with 14.5 seconds left, then blocked a potential tying three-pointer by Montana's Anthony Johnson with 6 seconds remaining as host Washington escaped. Isaiah Thomas scored 13 points for the ragged Huskies (5-0), who had trailed by 12.

With leading scorer Quincy Pondexter just 2-for-10 from the field, Washington used the long-range shooting of reserve Elston Turner, who had 11 points, to finally crack Montana's zone.

Colton Iverson had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Gophers. Paul Carter added 13 points and Damian Johnson 12.

## AP men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 29, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Kansas (63)	50	1,623
2. Texas (1)	50	1,508
3. Villanova	60	1,442
4. Purdue	50	1,389
5. Kentucky	60	1,333
6. Duke	60	1,216
7. West Virginia	50	1,238
8. Syracuse (1)	60	1,183
9. Michigan St.	50	1,169
10. North Carolina	61	961
11. Tennessee	51	936
12. Washington	50	893
13. Florida	60	777
14. Connecticut	41	742
15. Ohio St.	51	702
16. Georgetown	40	588
17. Gonzaga	51	491
18. Clemson	61	426
19. Texas A&M	51	284
20. Louisville	41	252
21. Florida St.	61	219
22. Cincinnati	41	205
23. Butler	42	200
24. UNLV	50	191
25. Portland	51	120

### Others receiving votes:

Oklahoma St. 12, Georgia Tech 9, Marquette 8, Mississippi 7, Miami 7, BYU 7, Memphis 6, Vanderbilt 6, Notre Dame 5, Kansas St. 4, Michigan 4, California 3, Minnesota 3, Wisconsin 2, St. John's 2, Northwestern 15, Dayton 8, Missouri St. 7, New Mexico 6, Pittsburgh 6, Richmond 6, Arizona St. 5, Illinois 5, N.C. State 5, Illinois St. 4, Washington St. 4, Maryland 3, South Carolina 3, Missouri 2, Texas Tech 2, Cal St.-Fullerton 1, Va. Commonwealth 1.

## AP women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 29, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut (40)	6-0	1,000
2. Stanford	6-0	957
3. Ohio St.	8-0	893
4. North Carolina	5-0	860
5. Notre Dame	6-0	850
6. Tennessee	5-0	823
7. LSU	5-0	717
8. Baylor	6-1	691
9. Xavier	5-0	685
10. Texas A&M	3-0	601
11. Duke	5-1	595
12. Florida St.	6-0	561
13. Georgia	6-0	495
14. Virginia	5-1	437
15. Arizona St.	4-1	398
16. Vanderbilt	6-0	386
17. Texas	4-2	361
18. Oklahoma	4-2	270
19. Pittsburgh	5-0	252
20. California	3-2	230
21. DuPaul	4-1	216
22. Michigan St.	4-2	155
23. Georgia Tech	5-1	92
24. Kansas	3-2	81
25. Boston U.	5-0	80

**Others receiving votes:** Louisville 47, Rutgers 45, Nebraska 41, Middle Tennessee 23, Maryland 19, TCU 14, Miami 13, Hartford 12, Oklahoma St. 11, Wake Forest 11, Syracuse 10, St. John's 9, Wisconsin 8, Mississippi St. 7, Southern Cal 7, West Virginia 7, Illinois 6, Louisiana Tech 5, Texas Tech 4, San Diego St. 3, Boise St. 2, Gonzaga 1, Liberty 1, Purdue 1, Wyoming 1.

# No. 25 Pilots last ranked by AP in '59

By JIM O'CONNELL  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Only once before has The Associated Press college basketball poll changed as much as it did Monday. Only once before has Portland been in the Top 25.

The Pilots were among a record-tying seven teams to move into the rankings Monday, into their first appearance in the poll since February 1959.

"I heard that team was quite a squad," Portland coach Eric Reveno said with a laugh. "It's been a while."

Kansas, which had two easy victories last week, was No. 1 for the fourth straight poll, while Texas and Villanova both moved up one spot to second and third.

Purdue moved from sixth to fourth, followed by Kentucky, Duke, West Virginia, Syracuse, Michigan State and North Carolina. Michigan State (5-1), which had been No. 2, dropped to ninth after losing 77-74 to Florida. At No. 13, the Gators were the highest ranked of the seven newcomers.

The only time seven new teams entered the poll was Dec. 13, 1955, when it was still a Top 20.

Florida, No. 17 Gonzaga and No. 21 Florida State were all ranked last season. No. 19 Texas A&M was last rated in 2007-08, No. 24 UNLV in 2006-07 and No. 22 Cincinnati in 2005-06.

Then there's Portland. The Pilots (5-1) burst onto the national scene with a 74-47 dismantling of UCLA in the first round of the 76 Classic, followed by a 61-56 semifinal victory over then-No. 22 Minnesota and an 84-66 loss to West Virginia in the title game.

"This basically just confirms the progress we're making. It's not an accomplishment in and of itself," Reveno said.

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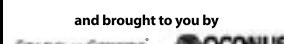
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## NFL: WEEK 12

# Ravens shock Steelers in OT on Cundiff FG

By DAVID GINSBURG  
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Ben Roethlisberger hated being a spectator on the sideline at a game the Pittsburgh Steelers desperately wanted to win.

The Steelers' injured starting quarterback did, however, like what he saw from third-stringer Dennis Dixon.

"We are so proud of the way he played," Roethlisberger said of Dixon after the Baltimore Ravens beat Pittsburgh 20-17 in overtime Sunday night. "The Ravens found out what we've known all along: He's a very good quarterback."

Dixon threw a 33-yard touchdown pass to Santonio Holmes and ran for a score. But when forced to work overtime, Dixon's first turnover of the game — an interception by rookie Paul Kruger — set up the game-winning field goal by Billy Cundiff.

Roethlisberger was held out because of a concussion he received in a game against Kansas City one week earlier. He practiced for much of the week, but a decision was made Saturday to make him the third quarterback.

"I wanted to go out and play. But the doctors told me it wasn't a good decision," Roethlisberger said.

Because backup quarterback Charlie Batch broke his left wrist in a relief role against the Chiefs, the Steelers had no choice but to start Dixon, who had previously attempted only one pass in an NFL game over two seasons.

Dixon went 12-for-26 for 145 yards and one very costly interception.

"I feel it went very well, as far as an offense, as far as a whole," the former Oregon star said. "Unfortunately, we came up short."

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said, "I like his demeanor throughout it all. He made some plays. I thought he represented himself relatively well."

The defending NFL champion Steelers (6-5) have lost three straight, their longest skid since a three-game run in 2006.

"We will not go gently," Tomlin said. "We won't go in a shell. We're going to go into attack mode, because that's what's required."

Down in the fourth quarter and in danger of falling below .500 for the first time this season, the Ravens (6-5) got back in the playoff picture with a much-needed victory.

"It sets us up for a five-game season right now," running back Ray Rice said.

Playing in place of injured linebacker Terrell Suggs, Kruger picked off Dixon's pass and returned it 26 yards to the Pittsburgh 28. Six plays later, Cundiff kicked a 29-yard field goal with 6:42 left in overtime.

"To be a part of that victory is huge for me," said Kruger, a rookie playing in only his fourth game. "It was a designed blitz. I was the dropper. I just happened to be at the right place at the right time."

Dixon said, "It was a situation where they were



GAIL BURTON/AP

**Pittsburgh quarterbacks Ben Roethlisberger, left, and Dennis Dixon talk during the first half of Sunday's game against Baltimore. Dixon, the third-stringer, started because Roethlisberger is recovering from a concussion and backup Charlie Batch has a broken wrist. Baltimore won 20-17 in OT.**

disguising the blitz throughout the whole game. We saw it. I basically tried to trust my instincts. The guy made a good play."

Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco completed 23 of 35 passes for 289 yards and a touchdown despite playing with a heavily taped ankle.

"You have to be ready to play 60 minutes. Today we played more than that," Flacco said. "It feels good. It's what we needed. Against these guys, it's even bigger."

The game was a rematch of last season's AFC championship, when the Steelers completed a three-game sweep of the Ravens with a 24-13 victory.

Dixon ran for a touchdown on a third-and-5 from the Baltimore 24 to give the Steelers their first lead, 17-14, with 6:24 left in the fourth quarter.

But the Ravens came back. Facing a fourth-and-5 from his own 46, Flacco completed a 44-yard pass to Rice to set up a 24-yard field goal by Cundiff with 1:51 to go.

Cundiff came up short on a 56-yard try on the final play of regulation.

# Young comes up big on last drive

## Last-second TD pass lifts Titans

By TERESA M. WALKER  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Kenny Britt caught the pass and jumped to his feet — only to be stripped of the ball with time ticking away.

No worries. On the next drive, Vince Young gave the rookie a chance for redemption, and he came through by leaping up to grab Young's 10-yard pass at the back of the end zone as time expired to cap the Tennessee Titans' stunning rally to a 20-17 victory over the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday.

"Emotions — there's really no words for it," Britt said. "Everybody is just so happy. You see people with the expressions that you didn't see around here for a long time. It just feels so special to be in the locker room with those fellas."

The catch capped an 18-play, 99-yard drive that used up the final 2 minutes, 37 seconds on the clock and kept the Titans on their historic rebound from an 0-6 start with their fifth straight victory.

They did it with Young beating Matt Leinart in the first professional game between the first two quarterbacks taken in the 2006 draft. And it felt eerily reminiscent of the BCS national championship in January 2006 when Young and the Texas Longhorns beat Leinart and Southern California with another late drive.

Young threw for a career-high 387 yards. He converted three fourth downs on the drive, two to Britt — including the TD catch.

"It was hard, but it really took a lot of patience and confidence," Young said.

Young has won nine straight starts, including the past five since he replaced Kerry Collins, and now is 23-11 as a starter. But this easily was his most impressive game since 2006, when he was the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year.

"He kept his poise, and he was confident," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said. "He just had that thing about him."

Leinart was making his first start since Oct. 7, 2007, because Kurt Warner had problems with his eyes. The Cardinals (7-4) sat Warner in case the problem is concussion-related, and Leinart threw for 220 yards. He drove the Cardinals to Tim Hightower's 6-yard TD run for a 17-13 lead in the fourth quarter.

Nearly lost in the amazing finish was Chris Johnson's record-setting performance. The Titans running back matched the NFL mark held by Earl Campbell (1980) and Eric Dickerson (1984) by running for at least 125 yards in his sixth straight game.

Johnson finished with 18 carries for 154 yards, but didn't touch the ball on the final drive.

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NFL: WEEK 12

# Favre leads Vikings past Cutler, Bears

## Minnesota QB throws for 392 yards, 3 TDs

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI  
*The Associated Press*

MINNEAPOLIS — For years, opposing defenses have crammed near the line of scrimmage and dared the Minnesota Vikings to beat them through the air.

With Brett Favre at the helm, this year's Vikings have a simple response: "Bring it on."

Favre completed 32 of 48 passes for a season-high 392 yards and three touchdowns, and the Vikings intercepted Jay Cutler twice in a 36-10 victory over the Chicago Bears on Sunday.

It was the fourth time in 11 games this season that the Vikings (10-1) have attempted at least 31 passes. That's not exactly what Favre was told while Vikings guard Steve Hutchinson was courting him this summer.

"He said I'll come in, hand off to Adrian (Peterson), throw it 15-20 times a game, maybe," said Favre, who matched former Vikings defensive lineman Jim Marshall for the NFL non-kicker record of 282 straight games played. "I thought that sounded good. I didn't believe it. Haven't had any games like that."

Favre threw the ball 46 times in a victory over San Francisco in Week 3, 31 times against Green Bay the following week and 50 times at Pittsburgh on Oct. 25. In the



STAR TRIBUNE, BRIAN PETERSON/AP

**Minnesota quarterback Brett Favre looks for an open receiver during Sunday's game against Chicago in Minneapolis. Minnesota won 36-10 to improve to 10-1 this season.**

process, the Vikings have morphed from a run-first offense into a high-flying aerial show.

"I think people are starting to look at our receivers like they do at Adrian Peterson as a force to be reckoned with," Favre said.

The Bears, like every other defense to face the Vikings this season, focused on stopping Peterson early on Sunday. And Favre picked them apart just as he's done to every other unit.

Chicago held Peterson to 35 yards on 11 carries in the first half, prompting coach Brad Childress to tell offensive coordina-

tor Darrell Bevell to open things up.

"You can't smash your head against the wall," Childress said.

Favre responded by completing 20 of 31 throws for 256 yards and three TDs to give Minnesota a 24-7 lead at the break. Favre threw scoring passes to Percy Harvin, who had six catches for 101 yards, Chester Taylor and Visanthe Shiancoe in the second quarter.

"Great player. Hall of Fame player that played that way today," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "But you have to say that we didn't meet the challenge that he and the

Vikings faced today. Simple as that."

Cutler and the Bears (4-7) just could not keep up. They were outgained 537-169, earned eight first downs to Minnesota's 32 and managed a measly 2 yards of total offense on 12 plays in the second half.

As excited as Vikings fans were when Favre walked through the door in August, so too were Bears fans when Chicago acquired Cutler from Denver in a trade. But it hasn't gone nearly as well, with Cutler already setting a career high with 20 interceptions.

He completed 18 of 23 passes for 147 yards and a touchdown to Johnny Knox. But he was intercepted by Cedric Griffin in the end zone and had a pass tipped in the air and picked off by Jared Allen, who also had two sacks.

"It's tough, with as good a football team that I think we have in here, to go out week after week and not live up to our own expectations," Cutler said. "That's the tough part."

The Bears have lost four in a row and six out of seven to plummet out of contention in the NFC North.

"I think pride is going to become an issue here," Bears defensive end Alex Brown said. "It's going to be heart, pride and who really enjoys playing the game of football."

Peterson finished with 85 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries. He was held to 3.4 yards per attempt and had two more fumbles, but it mattered little with Favre completing at least five passes to five different receivers.

"You go into a game and you want to stop Adrian and you say you'll take your chances and see if Brett Favre can beat us and he did," Brown said. "He threw for a bunch of yards today and a bunch of touchdowns."

## NFL roundup

# Chargers' defense leads way in rout of Chiefs

*The Associated Press*

SAN DIEGO — It was a play that seemed to sum up the afternoon.

San Diego Chargers safety Paul Oliver suddenly found the ball in his hands after Matt Cassel of the Kansas City Chiefs had it slip out of his. Oliver bobbed it a few times, held on, then ran 40 yards into the end zone.

"It bounced right to me," Oliver said. "It was about as easy of a play as you can make."

The Chargers converted four turnovers into scores in a 43-14 victory over Kansas City on Sunday to run their winning streak to six games.

LaDainian Tomlinson scored two touchdowns and moved into 10th on the NFL's career rushing list. Philip Rivers threw two touchdown passes to Antonio Gates as the AFC West-leading Chargers improved to 8-3.

The Chiefs (3-8) lost a week after stunning the defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers in overtime.

The Chargers' victory came courtesy of a defense that dominated despite losing outside line-



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

**San Diego running back LaDainian Tomlinson (21) follows the block of guard Brandyn Dombrowski (62) while scoring on a 1-yard run during the second quarter of Sunday's game in San Diego.**

backer Shawne Merriman to a foot injury in the second quarter. Cornerback Quentin Jammer had an interception and forced a fumble, and Brandon Siler and rookie Larry English also recovered fumbles.

Tomlinson began the day 12th on the all-time list with 12,218 yards. He passed Marcus Allen (12,243) on a 5-yard carry in the first quarter and Edgerrin James (12,246) on an 8-yard run in the second.

Tomlinson had 39 yards on 13 carries, giving him 12,257 for his career. Up next is Marshall Faulk in ninth with 12,279 yards.

Kansas City's fourth turnover came early in the third quarter when a shotgun snap went over Cassel's head on third-and-1 from the Chiefs 31 and was recovered by English at the 10. Tomlinson scored on a 3-yard run two plays later to make it 35-7.

San Diego's first touchdown, a 19-yard pass from Rivers to Gates, was set up by Jammer's interception. Gates had seven catches for 118 yards.

The only San Diego TD that didn't come after a turnover was Tomlinson's 1-yard run early in the second quarter. That one was set up when Malcom Floyd hauled in a 53-yard pass from Rivers. Although he appeared to tumble into the end zone with the ball, Floyd was ruled down at the 1.

Chris Chambers, released by the Chargers a month ago and quickly signed by Kansas City, caught a 7-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 7 in the second quarter. Charles scored on a 4-yard run in the third quarter.

Rivers was 21-for-28 for 317

yards, with no interceptions, for a rating of 135.6. He wasn't sacked.

Cassel was 19-for-31 for 178 yards. He was sacked once.

**49ers 20, Jaguars 3:** At San Francisco, 49ers quarterback Alex Smith threw short touchdown passes to Frank Gore and Vernon Davis in the kind of mistake-free day San Francisco coach Mike Singletary has sought for weeks.

Smith threw for 232 yards with no interceptions and no sacks in his best game since taking over as starter in late October. Joe Nedney kicked field goals of 46 and 27 yards for San Francisco (5-6), which snapped the Jaguars' (6-5) three-game winning streak and spoiled the Bay Area homecoming of Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio and running back Maurice Jones-Drew.

Jones-Drew, a prep star at powerhouse De La Salle High School on the other side of San Francisco Bay, ran for 75 yards to become a 1,000-yard rusher for the first time in his career.

Jones-Drew had his streak of five straight games with a TD run snapped.